

Program: Collapse of North American Indian Civilizations in 1300 A.D.

Speaker: Greg Wright, President, Assoc. Certified Fraud Examiners, Central Indiana Chapter

Introduced by: Greg Wright

Attendance: 148

Guests: Fletcher Graham, Dick Hueleter, Jack Leonard, Don Lowe, Reed Mann, John Riithm, Joe Rodisnberg, Bob Stoelting, Betty Wright

Scribe: Glenn Bingle

Editor: Jim Willson

This was Greg's fourth presentation before Sciencetech and his first not dealing with fraud, an area where he is an expert. Greg became interested in the Indian civilizations because of his maternal Indian ancestry. His curiosity as to what caused the collapse of Indian and others civilizations throughout history resulted in his extensive reading on the subject. He openly admitted he is not an expert on the subject, but an avid learner. He noted he brought his own fan club for moral support in case the talk was not well received.

He focused first on the two Indian civilizations he believed might be linked to his cultural ancestry which was of course the five civilized tribes. The Mississippian Culture existed from 400 A.D. to 1300 A.D. He presented excellent pictures of their achievements in architecture and engineering. This was followed by the Cahokia culture. They had even greater success than the Mississippian in art, science and architecture, building a city larger than London was at 1200 A.D. Why did these great Indian cultures disappear? Experts had hypothesized it could have been severe drought or mega-floods. If so, Greg wondered why this would be the cause at that time in their history? Both had survived other floods and droughts over a long history of growth and economic prospering.

Moving further west from Ohio and the Mississippi river valley, Greg studied the demise of the Anasazi 200 – 1300 A.D. They had even grander feats of architecture in the Chaco Canyon of New Mexico with their homes in mountain-side cliffs. These were depicted in great pictures. They too disappeared in 1300 AD. Experts hypothesized that maybe drought also had done them in. Cultural anthropologists have demonstrated that these civilizations became many tribes in different areas. Greg wondered: could there be another answer to this question besides the weather? After extensive investigation Greg discovered Dr. Walter Schiedel's book the Great Leveler. He postulated five conditions give rise to civilizational collapse. These are: War; Mass Migration; Revolution (transformative); Pandemics and Economic Inequality. Given Greg's background in business he was most intrigued by the later.

The rest of the excellent presentation presented data using the Gini Index to propose that the centralization of wealth in capitalistic and other economic systems is the root cause of many civilizations demise which he presented earlier in the talk. The demise often involves migration to a new area and an attempt to form new cultures and civilizations where the wealth is redistributed so that one big culture is made up of many tribes with different approaches. The data as presented are very compelling. The fact that the US and Great Britain and France have the greatest concentration of wealth in the hands of very few gives pause to the question of how can we redistribute US wealth to avoid the possible consequence of revolution, migration and even war.

Greg hopes the Sciencetech audience will ponder this serious issue and maybe think of some solutions. Given the possible consequences, we were privileged to hear an excellent presentation on this very important issue. He handed out copies of two important slides and an article which helped drive the presentation home.



Greg Wright