

How did the Natchez Indians live?

As the only representatives of the once flourishing Mississippi cultures, the Natchez managed to survive until the 18th century. This indigenous group from southeastern North America is hardly known in German-speaking countries. In "Die Natchez vom Unterlauf des Mississippi" (The Natchez of the Lower Mississippi), Karl-Hermann Hörner provides a detailed insight into the culture and social structures of the indigenous people. His book is published in November 2019 in a revised edition by GRIN Verlag.

When the first Europeans arrived on the Mississippi River in the 16th century, the Natchez people lived on the east bank of the river. The records of the French settlers provide a special opportunity to study the political and social structures of this culture not only with the aid of archaeological material but also from historical sources. In "The Natchez of the Lower Mississippi River," Hörner summarizes the results of years of research in clear, understandable language so that even interested laypersons can gain access to this people.

How states are formed

How was the Natchez society structured? How were they the only Mississippian culture to survive as a community until the 18th century? What role did religion and magic play? Hörner uses the example of the Natchez to contribute to the systematics of social structures in flux. Historical sources extend only to 1732, as the French crushed and expelled the Native Americans during colonial conflicts. Nevertheless, it is evident that their society was not based solely on kinship systems, but was on its way to forming state-like entities. "The Natchez of the Lower Mississippi" thus exemplifies how complex social and political structures can emerge that may be considered preforms of state organizational principles. The book is aimed especially at ethnologists and historians.

About the author

Karl-Hermann Hörner holds a degree in sociology, ethnology and history. In his studies he focused on non-industrial societies. He has been studying the Natchez for many years, which is why he decided to publish the numerous findings of his research. With his book, he hopes to make their culture accessible to anyone researching indigenous groups or specifically interested in the Natchez.

Keywords: Natchez; Mississippi; society; Native Americans; state formation.