

Abstract

Religious manuscripts from ancient and early colonial Mexico offer a direct pathway into Indigenous worldviews through the uniquely Mesoamerican medium of pictography. The complex calendrical system developed in the region during the thousands of years preceding the Spanish invasion forms the basic organizing principle of this pictorial language, which was wisely interpreted by priests to guide their clients in the resolution of life problems. This book offers new interpretations and insights on both calendrics and the related iconography of Mesoamerican religious manuscripts based on the author's field work in the Sierra Mazateca in northern Oaxaca to question accepted notions of divination, chronology, and the dichotomy between ritual and historical time.



Map 1. Places and regions mentioned in the book. Drawing by David Latorre Rendón based on García Cubas 1885.