The subject of this book, then, is the life of the Mexicans -- the Mexica, as they said themselves -- at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The great feast of the New Fire, the 'binding of the years', took place at the end of each native 'century' of fifty-two years; and the last was in the year 1507, during the reign of Motecuhzoma II Xocoyotzin ('the younger'). Start by marking "Daily Life of the Aztecs" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. A famed scholar evokes the life of this complex culture on the eve of its extinction, when the Spanish arrived and conquered them--imprisoning Montezuma and strangling Atahualpa. 'It is, without question, the most brilliant, the clearest and most readable portrayal of Aztec life available in any language.' The Aztecs were fierce, honorable, death-obsessed, and profoundly religious. A famed scholar evokes the life of this complex culture on the eve of its extinction, when the Spanish arrived and conquered them--imprisoning Montezuma and strangling Atahualpa. If you want a good book about the Aztecs, here are the three best (a completely unbiased view, of course!): 1. The Aztecs, by Michael E. Smith (3rd edition, 2012), Wiley-Blackwell. - Best book by an archaeologist. Soustelle ably demonstrates that there was more to Aztec society than war and human sacrifice, as he leads us first through the daily life of the average citizen of the Aztec empire, and from there goes on to talk about almost everything that a citizen could possibly come in contact with, from big things like the legal and educational systems, down to little things like what they ate where they went to the bathroom. Soustelle's style is engaging and easy to read, and his immense admiration for the Aztecs is visible in nearly every sentence. By purchasing books through this website, you support our non-profit organization. World History Encyclopedia receives a small commission for each book sold through our affiliate partners. Recommended By. Numerous educational institutions recommend us, including Oxford University and Michigan State University and University of Missouri. We have also been recommended for educational use by the following publications: Our Mission Our mission is to engage people with cultural heritage and to improve history education worldwide. Follow Us. About Contact Privacy Policy Partners Sponsors D