

BEYOND THE BINARY VII



A HIVE
OF PEOPLE

Ancient Indigenous land management techniques were varied and sophisticated, such as:

-  Fire
-  Harvest
-  Seed Scattering
-  Water Management
-  Pruning / Coppicing
-  Soil Amendment
-  Aquaculture
-  Game Management
-  Transplanting

They built road networks, some lined with stone, others raised into causeways.

At its peak, around the year 1100, a planned city called Cahokia the size of London then, stood near present-day St. Louis.

Its people built over 120 monumental earthen mounds for civic and religious purposes.



The total number of earthworks Indigenous people left behind, terraces, raised fields, canals, run into the millions.

"All that has been discovered up to the year [1549] is full of people, like a hive of bees, so that it seems as though God had placed all, or the better part of the entire human race in these countries." - Bartolomé de las Casas

In the late Pleistocene, human hunting and climate change drove megafauna extinctions around the world, including in North America.

This had cascading ecological effects.



For example:

ground sloth goes extinct



it's not around to disperse seeds of osage orange tree



osage orange tree's range shrinks



osage orange sphinx moth loses habitat

By 800 CE, the Maya had altered 75% of their landscape.

After their civilization collapsed, the forest regrew so fully it looked untouched to Europeans.

