

Saraveka (Saraveca)

Description

- 1.1 This society is extinct and is commonly referred to as the Saraveka (Saraveca) tribe. The language, now extinct also, is an Arawakan language connected to the still-living Paresi (Prsi) language in the Maipurean/Arawak family. The people themselves are known as the Sarave. (5)
- 1.2 The ISO code for the Sarave people is: 639-3, with the prefix SAR- and code standard SIL. (4)
- 1.3 The location given from the list was -15, -60 Crequi-Montfort (1913). Their traditional homeland was recorded at roughly 16 degrees South latitude. (3)
- 1.4 The Sarave people were renowned for their beauty by early explorers. Their location near (but not in) the Andean mountains impacted their customs and separated them from many of central Brazil's tribes. Their language, based off a numerical "coinary" system is slightly more complex than most Aravak derivations, and some Tupi cultural traits also manifested themselves in their culture. Upon first contact, there were roughly three or four hundred people, but were quickly decimated after leaving their homeland, the Eastern hills of the Cordillera. The Mission of Santa Anna pretty much drew its labor source from this indigenous tribe. They are now entirely extinct with no native speakers (1, 3).
- 1.5 The main mission in the area was the Mission of Santa Anna in Bolivia. As for powerful neighbors, there was obvious cultural transmission between the Saraveca and the Omagua, lending greater receptivity to Western ideas (3).
- 1.6 Ecology: Again, the Andes formed a border, but the lay of the land was lush tropics. This is optimal territory with plenty to eat given the accessibility of the Andean Sierra. Animals were domesticated for eating and evidence of irrigation in Northern Bolivia leads to the potential that the Sarave were a fairly complex society before Spanish colonization. The zone referring to the Eastern (our emphasis) and Western Cordilleras is called the Quechua Zone. It is at a high elevation which opens into slopes. This is where the Sarave were said to have originated, but not where they were found in colonial times (1,2).

Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrates: Sweet manioc (yucca) and maize. Bitter manioc was not a staple, if anything, a small contribution to diet. (1) Access to the Andean Sierra also allowed for resources such as coco, potatoes, guava, beans, squash, some sweet potatoes, Chile peppers, and peanuts. These people likely enjoyed a varied diet, if only because of trade with nearby tribes (2).
- 2.3 Weapons: blowgun, curare, and shields were traditional practices of the Sarave. They incorporated the sling, "Spear thrower," and bola from the Mojo closer to the mountains. Cultural diffusion is particularly evident in cases of weaponry and crafts for the now extinct Sarave people. They also borrowed the arrow feathering common to Tupi tribes (curious, result of war or trade?) (1).
- 2.4 The Sarave were not skilled in basketry. (1) We do not know, however, if they borrowed ceramic practices from their neighbors.

5.13: With ecology to support “complex sociopolitical structures,” it’s possible that a social hierarchy would develop with access to staples like potatoes, manioc, and mashua. Yet they were still a fairly small population. (2)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion

6.2 Stimulants: **no** use of tobacco, unusual compared to other indigenous Arawak. (1)

6.6 Art in the form of specialized craft was extremely common. With a plaiting loom and vertical loom, the Sarave were competent weavers. They also had a dance hall/men’s house (1).

7.8 Missionary Effect: While the Sarave probably borrowed the tunic from the Andean civilizations, “missionaries reinforced its role and permanence in the tribe.” (1)

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