

VERAPAZ STATISTICS

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The Alta Verapaz of Guatemala is unique in Mesoamerica because of the lack of a violent hispanic conquest and subsequent encomendero exploitation (cf. Saint-Lu, 1968). The absence of such a conquest allows it to be used as a model against which one can test other theories of population decline and change in the Colonial period. The purpose of this paper is to provide data allowing those who wish to prepare these type of models using the Kekchi (Coban, Carcha, Chamelco, Lanquin, Cahabon), Pokom (Cahcoh, Cabasion, Tactic, Tamahu, Tucuru) and Choloid Maya communities of this area. It is based on, mostly, unpublished documents recently discovered by the author in the Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain and elsewhere (cf. Table 1).

Table 2, List of Tributarios, except for 1768 (which is a count of families), represents the tax paying (tributario) portion of the population. Numbers in italics represent either estimates, based upon the lowest and closest in time figure, or readings made from damaged documents. Although given in the original document as "1597", entries for this year are being read as if they were "1579" which it is felt makes better sense upon comparison with data from other years. The document itself (AGI Guatemala 172) is a sixteenth century summary based upon other documents and not the original census manuscript. Another reason for doubting its accuracy is a different (and more reasonable total for the Verapaz in the year 1597 of 2,150 tributarios than that arrived at by adding what is here assumed to be really a "1579" list. In 1564 the total for Coban includes 100 tributarios; in 1566, 200 tributarios, and in 1571, 120 tributarios, all of whom are identified as being from the Chol

community of Acala. For data on the persistence of a Chol speaking enclave at Coban, and Chol surnames, into the nineteenth century one should see the articles of Escobar (1841) and Feldman (1978).

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the total Verapaz adult population in 1566. Column 1 is the total number of "vecinos" per town. Column 2 provides the number of those who serve the caciques and principales, column 3 those who serve the Catholic church, column 4 the number of those who serve the crown ("tributarios"); column 5 is made up of those exempted from paying tribute because of age or health and Column 6 is of those exempted from tribute because they were only recently brought under Spanish Control (these last are all from Acala). Percentages of total adult population are given in the bottom row for each category.

Tabla 4 gives the tribute in different goods owed by the various towns in the first two decades of these payments (payments began in 1560). It is interesting to note that often the number of "gallinas de castilla" paid was equal to the number of tributarios while the number of fanegas of maize was equal to half the number of "gallinas de castilla". As in Table 2, numbers in italics are either estimates based upon the lowest, closest in time, known figure or readings made from damaged documents. All entries for the year 1567 represent, except for Yaxal, amounts given to the caciques and *not* to the Spanish government. In 1564 Tamahu paid one other item, 6 "azumbres de miel", an entry of 3 "cantaros de miel" also appears for 1566 but is not ascribed to any town. Other, separately cited, totals for 1566 include: 1,979 mantas, 15 cargas (= 45 xiquipiles) of patastle, maize and cacao (these last two have an illegible total). It should also be noted that entries for Xocoloc, Yaxal, Canpin and Bolantin are combined under one heading after 1574.

Some word should be said on town nomenclature and disappearance. Out of the seventeen towns given in the 1560's, seven were gone by the end of the century. The inhabitants of Yaxal, Canpin and Bolantin had supposedly "fled into the forests" by 1574 (Viana, Gallego and Cadena, 1955), although their tribute was being paid as late as 1580. San Pablo was extinct by 1580 (cf. Contaduria 968) and the other towns do not appear in the records after 1582. On the other hand, Chamiquin, Purula and Panzos are all communities that first show up in the historic record at or just before Independence (1821) and, in at least the case of Chamiquin, represent a new congregation of recent lowland settlers with the

dispersed remnants of a former settlement (in this case San Andres Polochic (cf. Aguilar *et al*, 1823). The sixteenth century Santa Cruz Cabasion has been identified with the community known as Santa Cruz Munchu in the eighteenth century (Andonaigue, 1936) and today simply as Santa Cruz Verapaz. One is very tempted, by comparison of tributario totals, to assume (although there is no proof), that San Pablo was merged with San Esteban to form modern Tamahu. Tamahu was known as both San Esteban and San Pablo in the sixteenth century, as was Tactic called both San Miguel and Santa Maria (perhaps also the result of a merger). Finally, inspection of the list of tributarios might lead one to believe that San Geronimo is a synonym for Cabasion, however both appear as separate entries for the same years in the lists of tribute. Nor is there any evidence that San Geronimo is equivalent to the settlement of that name located in Baja Verapaz. Its proper identification, like those former settlements (otherwise unidentified) alluded to in the Viana, Gallego and Cadena (1955) manuscript as now part of the lands of Tucuru, must await further discoveries of appropriate manuscripts.

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TABLE 1

SOURCES BY YEAR

- 1564 — AGI (Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain) Contaduria 967
- 1566 — AGI Justicia 332
- 1567 — AGI Contaduria 967
- 1570 — AGI Contaduria 968
- 1571 — AGI Justicia 332; Viana, Gallego y Cadena 1955
- 1572 — AGI Justicia 332
- 1574 — AGI Contaduria 967; Viana, Gallego y Cadena 1955
- 1575 — AGI Contaduria 967
- 1578 — AGI Contaduria 968
- 1579 — AGI Contaduria 968; AGI Guatemala 172
- 1580 — AGI Contaduria 968
- 1582 — AGI Guatemala 966
- 1597 — AGI Guatemala 163
- 1683 — Contaduria 815
- 1768 — Cortes y Larraz 1958
- 1778 — AGCA (Archivo General de Centro America) A3.29-1749-28130-
folio 148
- 1788 — AGCA A3-246-4917
- 1811 — AGCA A3.16-5075-250-folio 1
- 1816 — AGCA A3.16-954-17782
- 1825 — AGCA B11.10-4685-205-folio 3
- 1838 — AGCA B84.3-1144-26153

TABLE 2

LIST OF TRIBUTARIOS PART A

Towns ¹	Years									
	1564	1566	1571	1572	1574	1579	1582	1683	1768	1778
1	800	711	527	370	370	494	374	374	3219	1910
2	850	747	622	622	622	511	314	300	510	399
3	710	600	551	551	551	363	280	280	510	423
4	180	172	127	134	134	120	90	244	281	335
5	700	600	547	537	537	522	340	925	678	829
6	345	341	300	311	300	289	240	421	427	399
7			60	64	60	56	60	143	374	357
8	150	118	82	82	80	79	98	239	315	208
9	180	149	107	70	70	96	69	213	422	309
10	200	61	124	131	90	116	68	133	213	175
11	60	59	49	44	44	44	8			
12	55	40	42	40	36	15	7			
13	14	14	10	10	7	10				
14	80	57	31	31	0					
15	30	19								
16	45	30	33	33	26		0			
17	117	81								
1-10	4115	3297	3047	2872	2814	2646	1933	3272	6949	5344
11-17	401	300	165	158	115	69	15			
1-17	4516	3597	3212	3030	2929	2715	1948	3272	6949	5344

¹ Towns: 1. Santo Domingo Coban, 2. Santiago y San Pedro Carcha, 3. San Juan Chamelco, 4. San Agustín Lanquin, 5. Santa María Cahabon, 6. San Cristóbal Cahcoch, 7. Santa Cruz Cabasion, 8. San Miguel (Santa María) Tactic, 9. San Esteban (San Pablo) Tamahu, 10. San Miguel Tucuru, 11. San Andrés Polochic, 12. San Mateo (Santa Catalina) Xocoloc, 13. Santa Cruz Cahaboncillo, 14. Yaxal, 15. Canpin y Bolantin, 16. San Pablo, 17. San Geronimo.

TABLE 2.
LIST OF TRIBUTARIOS PART B

<i>Towns¹</i>	<i>Years</i>					
	<i>1778</i>	<i>1788</i>	<i>1811</i>	<i>1816</i>	<i>1825</i>	<i>1838</i>
1	1910	2265	2600	2487		1510
2	399	581	1004	1039		877
3	423	512	613	568		246
4	335	415	363	360		293
5	829	1111	864	845		793
6	399	441	556	560		285
7	357	384	504	462		300
8	208	233	276	241	337	314
9	309	341	461	348	528	320
10	175	191	287	249	212	110
18					90	233
19					65	33
19						183
1-10	5344	6474	7533	7209		5048
18-20					224	449
1-20	5344	6474	7533	7209		5497

¹ Towns: 1. Santo Domingo Coban, 2. Santiago y San Pedro Carcha, 3. San Juan Chamelco, 4. San Agustín Lanquín, 5. Santa María Cahabón, 6. San Cristóbal Cahcoh, 7. Santa Cruz Munchu, 8. San Miguel (Santa María) Tactic, 9. San Esteban (San Pablo) Tamahu, 10. San Miguel Tucuru, 18. Chamiquin, 19. Purula, 20. Panzos.

TABLE 3
VERAPAZ. VECINOS IN 1566¹

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Vecinos</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Coban	848	18	16	511	103	200
Carcha	848	10	10	747	81	
Chamelco	724	18	10	600	96	
Lanquin	201	12	7	172	10	
Cahabon	700	89	11	600		
Cahcoh	419	16	10	341	52	
Tactic	164	8	7	118	31	
Tamahu	186	6	7	149	24	
Tucuru	98	10	8	61	19	
Polochic	76	7	6	59	4	
Xocoloc	53	10	3	40		
Cahaboncillo	17	3		14		
Yaxal	67	4	6	57		
Canpin y Bolantin	24		5	19		
San Pablo	40	4	1	30	5	
San Geronimo	122	21	6	81	14	
Totals	4575	226	113	3597	439	200
Percentage of total	100	4	3	79	10	4

¹ Identification of numbers at head of columns. 1. Number of those who served the caciques and principales, 2. number of those who served the Catholic church, 3. number of those who served the Crown, 4. number of those exempted from paying tribute because of age or health, 5. number of those exempted from tribute because they were only recently brought under Spanish control.

TABLE 4
LIST OF TRIBUTE PART A

Towns	Gallinas de Castilla									
	Years 1564	1566	1567	1571	1572	1574	1575	1578	1579	1580
Coban	700	511		527	360	494	494	494	494	494
Garcha	845	747		622	625	618	618	618	618	618
Chamelco	710	600		551	548	548	548	548	548	548
Lanquin	180	172		127	120	120	120	120	120	120
Cahabon	700	600		547	537	523	523	523	523	523
Cahcoh	341	341		300	311	289	289	289	289	289
Cabaston				60	64	56	56	56	57	56
Tactic	150	118		82	82	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	79	69	69
Tamahu	180	149		107	97	97	97	97	97	97
Tucuru	0	61		124	130	117	117	117	117	117
Poloctic	60	49		49	44	44	44	44	44	44
Cahabencillo	14	14			10	10	10	10	10	10
Xocoloc	55	40		42	40					
Yaxal	0	57	57		40	85	85	45	45	45
Campan y Bolantín	30	9			5					
San Pablo	48	30			33	33	33	33	33	33
San Geronimo	116	81			87	85	85			
Totals	4129	3579		3138	3127	3240	3236	3064	3064	3063

TABLE 4
LIST OF TRIBUTE
PART B
Fanegas de Maiz

Towns	Years 1564	1566	1567	1571	1572	1574	1575	1578	1579	1580
Coban	350	255			280	247	247	247	247	247
Carcha	422	373	137½		313	309	309	309	309	309
Chamelco	325	300	233½			274	274	274	274	274
Lanquin	86	86		63½		60	60	60	60	60
Cahabon	350	300		273½	268	261	261½	261½	261½	261½
Cahcoch	132	170	105½	150	55	148	144½	144½	144½	144½
Cabasion	37		37		32	28	28	28	25	28
Tactic	85	59	17		42	39	39½	39½	39½	39½
Tamahu	74½	74½				48	48½	48½	48½	48½
Tucuru	82	82			61	58	58½	58½	58½	58½
Polechic	30	29½		24½		22	22	22	22	22
Cahaboncillo	7	7			5	5	5	5	5	5
Xocoloc	23	20		21		42½	42½	42½	42½	42½
Yaxal	28½	28½	28½			42	42½	42½	42½	42½
Canpin y Bolantin	15	9½			16½	16½	16½	16½	10½	22½
San Pablo	24	15				42½	42½			
San Geronimo	58	42½								
Totals	2129	1851½				1598	1599	1536½	1527½	1520

TABLE 4
LIST OF TRIBUTE

PART C

Mantas

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Years</i>						
	1564	1572	1574	1575	1578	1579	1580
Coban	350						
Carcha	421½						
Chameleo	350						
Lanquin	85		60	60	60	60	60
Cahabon	350	268	261½	261½	261½	261½	261¼
Cahcoh	132½						
Tactic	65						
Tamahu	90						
Cahaboncillo	7						
Canpin y Bolantin	15						
San Geronimo	58						
Total	1924						321¼

Part D

Cacao and Pataste (P)¹

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Years</i>						
	1564	1566	1567	1572	1575	1579	1580
Coban				2x			
Carcha				2x			
Tactic				2x			
Tamahu					14xlz	14xlz	14xlz
Tucuru	66x			24x	21x	21x	21x
					14z	14z	14z
Polochic	21x						
Cahaboncillo				2x	2x	2x	2x
Xocoloc	18x						

TABLE 4
LIST OF TRIBUTE
PART D

Cacao and Pataste (P)¹
Continued

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Years</i> 1564	1566	1567	1572	1575	1579	1580
		Yaxal	45xP	40xp			
Canpin y Bolantin		6x	3x				
San Pablo	13½x						
Total	115½x						37x
	45xP						15z

¹ Abbreviations mean as follows: x = Xiquipiles, z = Zontles.

PART E

Tostones

<i>Towns</i>	<i>Years</i> 1564	1566	1572	1574	1575
		Coban	894	560	494
Carcha	1306	626	618	618	
Chamelco	1000		548	548	
Lanquin	430				
Cahabon	500				
Cahcoh	7	311			
Cabasion		64	56	56	
Tactic	806	85		69	
Tamahu	261				
Tucuru	289		79		
Polochic	177		66	66	
Cahaboncillo	28				

PART E

Tostones

Continued

Towns	Years				
	1564	1566	1572	1574	1575
Xocoloc		100			
Yaxal				170	170
Canpin y Bolantin					
San Pablo	135	71		50	50
San Geronimo		135		125	135
Totals		6004			2206

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