

El Plan de Aztlan

Workshop Outline

This outline/summary was created to assist presenters when presenting El Plan de Aztlan. Please make sure to read the El Plan before presenting. It is also recommended that you allow for discussion and a Question and Answer session during your presentation.

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Introduction

El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan : A nationalist plan of action for the Chicano Movement calling for liberation of Raza through various means. It is important to point out that El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan has been criticized for having harsh language; it was an attempt to identify who we are not (gavacho, gringo invaders, etc).

Historical Context/Events

- Explain the Historical Events leading up to the creation of the plan (put in a historical context before jumping into the plan itself.)
 - Example: East LA Blowouts (1968)
 - The Chicano Movement
 - Helpful to show documentary or video (Chicano! Movie series)
 - The Creation of El Plan de Aztlan
 - Who: Corky Gonzalez and The Crusade for Justice
 - When: March 1969
 - Where: Denver, Colorado
 - What: A call to action

El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan

- Key Concepts
 - Symbolism/ Passion/Emotion: Poem
 - Self determination
 - The ability to determine/shape/mold one's own life/future/present/goals & objectives; (within MEChA it refers to self-determination for all Chicanas/os; within the Philosophy it refers to Mechistas)
 - A call to unite
 - Chicano Nationalism
 - Aztlan – discussion the concept of Aztlan

Program

- Transcends social and economic borders
- Call to identify with the philosophy and then implement it.

Nationalism

- Identifies nationalism as common denominator, to work as a unifying force and the “Key to Organizing”

Nationalism & Chicano Nationalism:

Nationalism is usually defined in academic dictionaries as the connection/tie/pride in a

particular nation and connotes a sense of patriotism.

- Chicano Nationalism within MEChA & the Chicano movement differs because there is no specific nation to adhere to. Aztlan is not a necessarily defined territory. Instead, Chicano Nationalism is more of an ideal, in which Raza no matter class or specific nationality sees one another as familia. It is a means of unification. It is an understanding and realization that we are all brown and share a common experience living as Raza in US society. Our communities all face similar social problems such as poverty, the need for bilingual education, racism, etc..

Organizational Goals

- Unity
 - Come together for the liberation of La Raza
- Economy
 - Create and sustain Raza owned business
- Institutions – examples education, government etc...
- Self defense
- Cultural
 - Reinforcing our Cultura
 - “Hermandad”
- Political Liberation
 - Having a voice
 - Political Awareness and Involvement

Plan of Action

- Awareness and distribution of El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan
- September 16th walk out
- Self –defense
- Community Nationalism
- Economic program
- Creation of Political Party

MEChA’s Relationship to El Plan de Aztlan

- Both El Plan de Aztlán (EPA) and El Plan de Santa Barbara (EPSB) served as the historical foundation for the establishment of a viable Chicana/Chicano Movimiento and are therefore fundamental to the M.E.Ch.A. Philosophy. (The Philosophy of MEChA)
- The Plan de Aztlan is a guiding document for MEChA it does not govern the organization.

