Assignment: Archaeology and Public perception

The huge stones of the ruins Tiwanaku has attracted admiration and speculation for the last 500 years. The indigenous people told stories to the Spanish of a race of giants that built the ruins overnight. Recently, Tiwanaku has become the prime example of “Ancient Aliens” in the past.

The documentary was an attempt to portray the archaeology, the indigenous people, and their accomplishments in a proper light. Television format require a hook that keeps people entertained to prevent switching the channel over. TV producers frequently cite that people’s attention span is 6 minutes. After that, they will change the channel if not engaged or promised something spectacular. This demand resulted in a tug of war between the archaeologists and the straightforward, and often mundane facts, and the film company that needs to produce an exciting, viable commercial product.

For this brief essay, you’ll be evaluating the public perception of this archaeological experiment and documentary. To do this, watch the video go through the comments on the YouTube page. Choose two comments that you find interesting. Feel free to speculate and write about the motivation of the person behind the comment. What did they think of the documentary? How do they perceive archaeologists and indigenous people? How do they view the past? To conclude, draw upon your inner film critic and tell me if this documentary is successful as entertainment that also informs (or “infotainment” in TV terms).