



ECHEYDE. Teide volcano and protohistoric Guanche settlements of Tenerife, Canary islands

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The volcanic origin and activity of the Canary island territory represent one of inhabitants growing factors of the along the recent geology, besides, the rich land fertility due to lava flows, was one of the reasons of their colonization by guanche culture.

In general their social structure, based on chiefdom, as the Menceyatos, poor on technologies and strictly related to natural resources, could be considered as a real winning survival strategy face to an active volcanic island.

The locational analysis carried out in this brief study shows that the western menceyatos were almost populated despite the possible high risks resulting from eruptions, landslides and lava flows. On the contrary, it seems clear that there was a total adaptation to the landscape, given by the high proportion of occupations in cave. Resilient mechanisms were probably transmitted during local assemblies, as a common strategy to face the events, despite the Spanish chronicles didn't inform of any particular guanche cultural tradition associated with Teide volcano and related hazards.

The volcanic eruptions with low explosive features during last 10.000 years did not caused major cultural changes, whereas large ash falls produced a real damages with the consequence of human displacements along the limited island territories.

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