



Tacos: Are they any good?

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Who ate this food? Where and why?

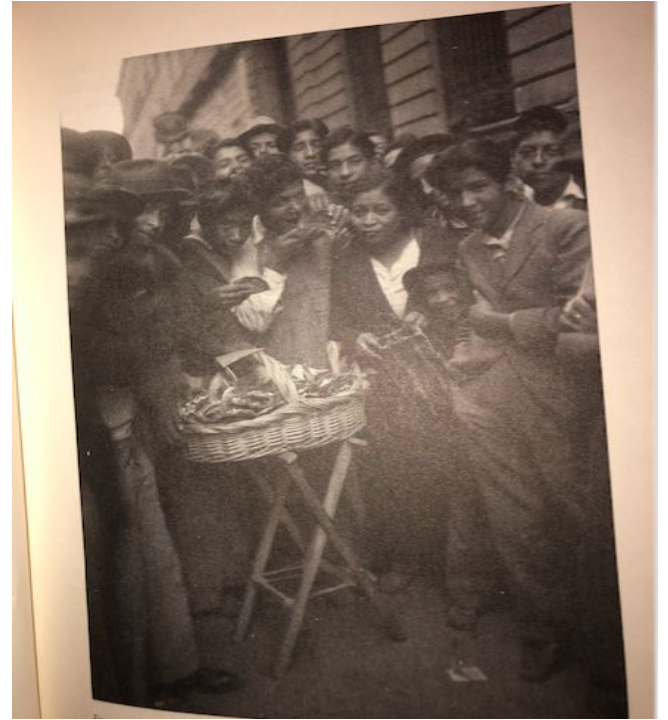
Tacos before the nineteenth century

- Little research of the taco until the late nineteenth century because the elite preferred French cuisine over indigenous cuisine.
- 1891, Tacos gain widespread attention due to Muriel Payno's book, *Los bandidos de Rio Frio* (The bandits of Cold River).
- 1895. Tacos received recognition in Feliz Ramos 1 Durte's, *Diccionario de mejicanismas*

Who ate this food? Where and why?

Origin of Tacos

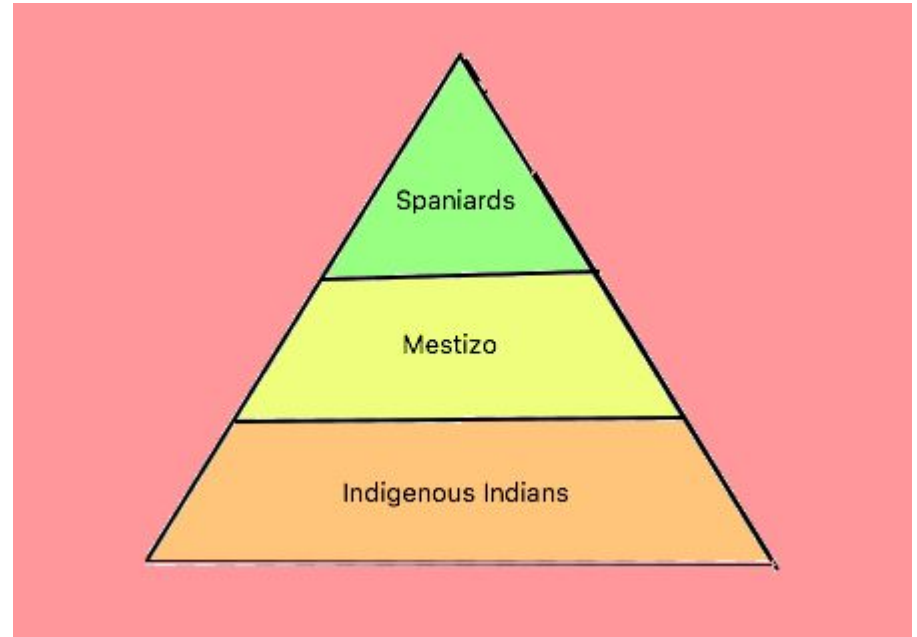
- Jeffery Pilcher believes that it was the miners in the silver industry that created tacos.
- Tacos (miners defn): explosive charges of gunpowder wrapped in paper.
- 1810's, the silver industry starts to struggle and miners, women and **working class people** had to migrate.
- How did Tacos (explosive) turn into Tacos (food)
 - Migration to **Mexico city**
 - Tacos de minero was created because it was a **common and convenient snack** for the miners.
- One of the first visual records of the taco in the early 1920's



Who ate this food? Where and why?

Development of the Mexican and American taco

- racial , economic, and social divide between the spaniards, Mesizo, and indigenous.
- Spaniards ate wheat bread and the indigenous ate corn tortillas until the Chichmecas created wheat flour tortilla.
- Chichmecas globalized the taco and mexican food
- French would was then denounced but indigenous food was still seen as the **poor working man's** food
- Caused Anglo settlers to have a negative attitude towards indigenous foods , i.e. tacos
 - Spread stereotypes, i.e. Chili Queens of San Antonio are vixens who lure men in with thier spicy food.



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Development of Mexican and American Tacos

- Demand of Mexican food and Tacos started to grow in non- Mexican communities.
 - I.e **Surfers** and **american soldiers**
- The industrialization of Mexican food by non-Mexican businessman
- **Migrant workers** started to shift to mass-produced industrialized tortillas (why?) and tacos were introduced into **anglo american's** meals.
- Glen Bell, opened the first Taco Bell in Downey, California
- At the same time in **Mexico**, the **middle class** started to explore their national cuisine once again.



Reasons for eating Tacos

Biological reasons

- The sensation of hunger arises and creates the need to eat food.
- Preferences for specific foods develop through association of the sensory attributes of a food with the situation and frequency it is eaten.
- We are strongly influenced by experience and our environment.

Reasons for eating Tacos

Cultural reasons

- Tacos are of Mexican origin.
- They are interactive and fun.
- Tacos are inexpensive to make.
- Tacos make for a healthy meal.
- Tacos have become so prevalent in Mexican culture that the word “Taco” has many different meanings.

Why are tacos the way they are?

Taste:

The tacos taste primarily comes from the spices used and any of the fresh add ons put into the taco at assembly. Often tacos you find on the more “traditional” end will be warm and a bit of acid.

Ingredients:

Meat generally heavily covered in a spice mix

Liquid condiment such as salsa and hot sauce however today almost any flavor profile can be given to tacos

Tortillas corn or flour and hard or soft

Other topping can be nearly any thing now; lettuce, cheese, corn, coleslaws even

Why? continued

Tacos are made from a protein and spice mixtures cooked together being put on a torilla or shell.

Meat can either be quick fried or slow cooked. And can be petty well any meat or even even beans or tofu.

References

<http://sites.psu.edu/searsforeignfood/2015/10/02/the-culture-of-the-taco/>

Pilcher, Jeffery. “ Plant Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food.” Oxford University Press, 2012, 132-1.