THE TOLTECS

(750 AD - 1200AD)
After the fall of Teotihuacan, you see a mixture of their civilization with the proceeding Toltec and Aztec civilizations.
Scholars find the study of Toltec history problematic as they mixed their myths with historical events.

This is further complicated when you consider that the Toltecs also mixed their myths/religion with those of Teotihuacan.
650 AD- Teotihuacan collapses and various northern Chichimec tribes ("dog people") arrive into central Mexico.

The Tolteca-Chichimeca are one of these tribes.

They are led by Mythical King Mixcoatl.

Most likely introduced the Nahuatl language into central Mexico.
650-950 AD- Toltec mix with Teotihuacanos.
They mixed bloodlines/religion/society with Teotihuacanos, making them legitimate.
Teotihuacan gods such as Quetzalcoatl become Toltec gods.
In time, the derogatory name “Toltec” becomes synonymous with “Artisan”, “city dweller”, “cultured”.
By 950 AD- they shift their capital to Tula.
QUETZALCOATL: Man or Myth?
Under King Ce Acatl Topiltzin, the Toltecs moved their capital to Tula (950-1200 AD)

Topiltzin was not just king, but head priest in the temple of the god Quetzalcoatl (a primary god of Teotihuacan)

Called “Topiltzin the Quetzalcoatl”, later simply Quetzalcoatl.
Topiltzin began a massive reform movement to eliminate sacrifice from the Toltec warrior society.

He was exiled from Tula by the Toltec army in 987 AD.

This is verified by Maya accounts that recall the arrival of “Kukulkan from the west” to the Maya land in 987 AD.
The highland Maya are conquered by “Kukulcan and his armies”

The highland Maya in the Post-classic period are a mix in between Maya-Toltec

They found the cities such as Chichen-Itza and Mayapan.

“Kukulkan” is the Maya word for Feathered-serpent (The Nahuatl word for feathered serpent is Quetzalcoatl)
According to Toltec mythology, Quetzalcoatl is the son of Mixcoatl. He has an evil brother named Tezcatlipoca (God of war). Quetzalcoatl is drugged by his brother and commits incest with his sister.
Ashamed, he exiles himself and heads to the east coast on a boat of snakes vowing to one day return.

The mixing of this historical/mythological tale was very real to Mesoamericans and will play a major role in the conquest of the Aztecs 530 year later.
After 987 AD, there are two Toltec centers - Toltec Tula (Tollan) in central Mexico and Chichen-Itza- the Toltec-Maya empire in the Maya region.
Toltec society was a warrior society.

They begin the long tradition of “military orders” of the eagle, jaguar, etc.

Tula was the largest city of the Post-classic period with a population of 30-40,000.
Their influence was enormous.

The “Turquoise Road” stretched from central Mexico to southwest USA.

They introduce the feathered serpent to the USA southwest Hopi and Zuni
The Toltec introduced Nahuatl to central Mexico.
Religion

- Militarism came before religion.
- Only small amounts of religious statues have been discovered.
- The majority of art shows military figures.
- In its last stages, sacrifice played a central role.
987 AD-1200 AD- The Toltecs begin a long decline due to droughts, revolts, and invasion.

Northern Chichimeca tribes once again begin to invade into central Mexico.

One of these invading tribes is the Mexihca. (Aztec)
The last Toltec King was Huemac. Tula was burned to the ground and its population spread throughout southern valley’s of central Mexico. These Toltec would later found various powerful city-states.