

THE INCA EMPIRE

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August 26, 2010

INTRODUCTION

How do we know about the Incas ?

No *system* of writing...

- Spanish conquerors writings
- Native accounts
- Ethnographic studies
- Archaeology

OUTLINE

- History of the Incas
- Social organization
- Economic structure
- Political structure
- Religion and Ideology
- Material culture

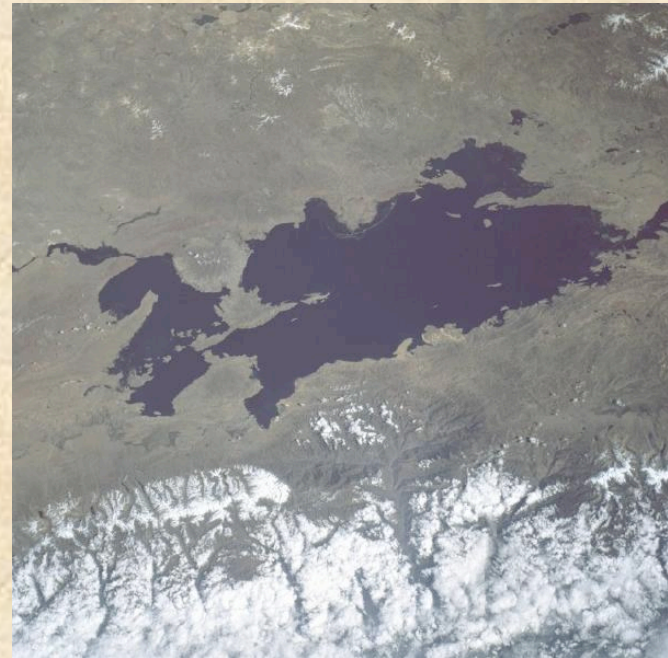
ORIGIN: myth and reality

The Pacariqtambo Legend



felipe guaman poma de ayala

Lake Titicaca Legend



NASA

History

Society

Economy

Politics

Religion

Material

INCA DYNASTY

SAPA INCA (“unique Ruler”)

REIGN

Manco Capac

? (1100 – 1200 A.D.)

Sínchí Roca

?

Lloque Yupanquí

?

Mayta Capac

?

Capac Yupanquí

?

Inca Roca

?

Yahuar Huacac

? – 1438

Viracocha

Pachacutí (“Earth shaker”)

1438 – 1471

Topa Inca

1471 – 1493

Huayna Capac

1493 – 1525

Huascar / Atahualpa

1525 – 1532 / 1532 – 1535

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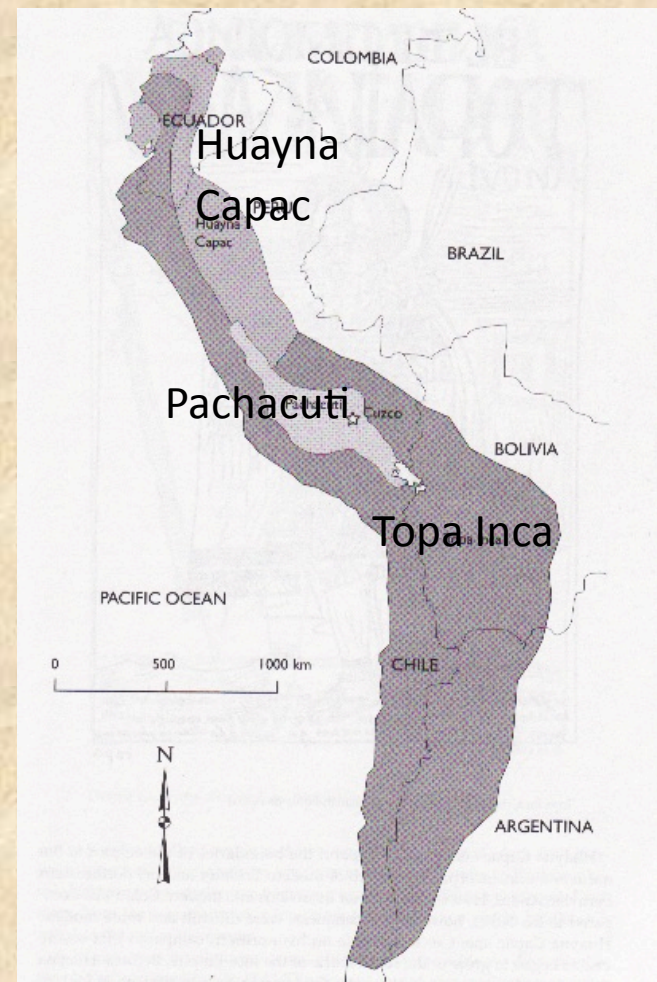
Politics

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EMPIRE EXPANSION

- Started with Pachacuti (Viracocha ?) 1438-1471
rebuilt Cuzco from scratch
public work, Machu Picchu
codified Inca law, taxation system
Considered as the founder of the Inca empire.
- Topa Inca carried on
- Huavna Capac had some difficulties at the North-East



DECLINE

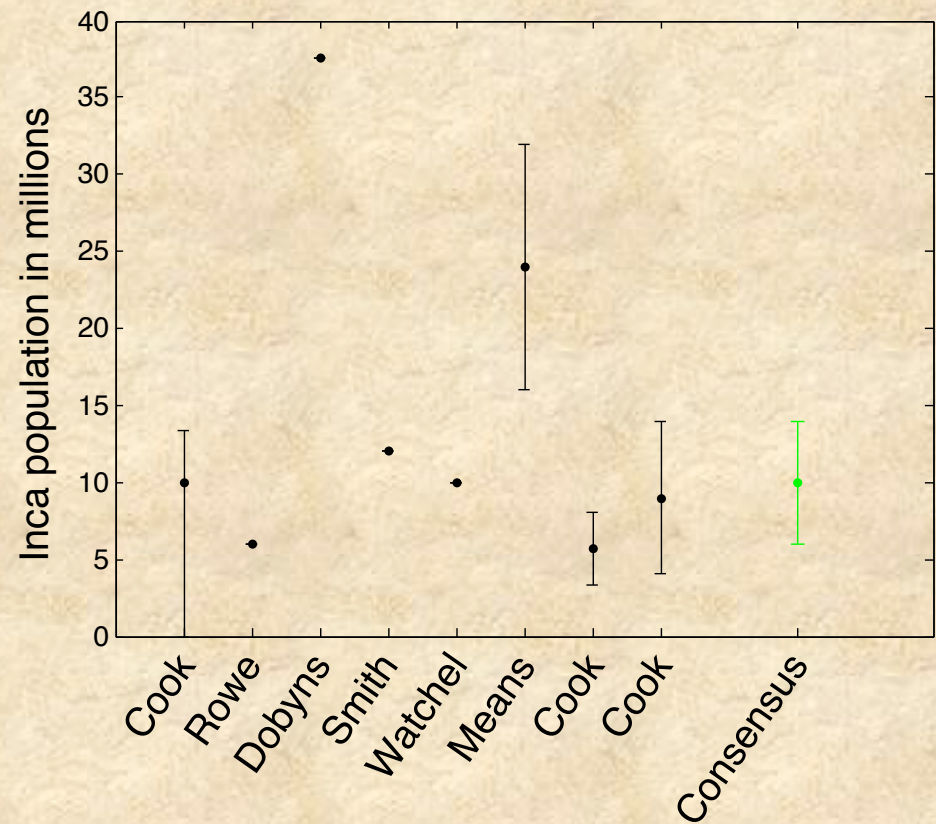
- Long absence of Huavna Capac from Cuzco
- War of succession between 2 of his sons: Huascar and Atahuallpa
- Population dying from European diseases (smallpox)
- Arrival of the Spaniards (Pizarro) with better weapons and war tactics

The Spaniards take over Cuzco on November 16, 1532

POPULATION

Different
population
estimates

General consensus
between 6 and 14
million people.



SOCIAL ORGANIZATION: CLASSES



Sapa Inca

Hahua & Capac Incas

Curacas

Common people
(*runakuna*)

Outside the
classes system

Panacas

Acclas

Yanacona

Camayos

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THE LIFE CYCLE

- **Birth and childhood:** Tough conditions to make tough individuals. High mortality rate.
- **Puberty rites:** 14 for boys, 1st menstruations for girls. Permanent name given.
- **Kinship and marriage:** Monogamy for commoners, polygamy for nobles.
- **Old ages:** Less hard physical work until no work expected.

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

- No money, no shops or market
- Sapa Inca owned everything and gave the people what they needed to live
- No trade with surrounding empires
- Economy based on agriculture and herding (foodstuffs, clothes)

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

- Taxes: human labor (crops, textile, army, mining, etc.)
- Land was divided in 3 parts:
 - state religion
 - emperor
 - sustenance for local population
- Nobles owned private estate and people to work on them and didn't pay taxes.
- Most productive land in Cuzco seized forever by the emperor.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- *Tawantinsuyu*
tawa = “four”
suyu = “region”
- Basics of politics
 - reciprocal obligation
 - social groups
 - local lords



POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- Division in regions function of number of people.

Curacas	Heads of households
<i>hunu curaca</i>	10,000
<i>piska waranga curaca</i>	5,000
<i>waranqa curaca</i>	1,000
<i>pisca pachaca caraca</i>	500
<i>pachaca caraca</i>	100

- Spies from the emperor to control.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURES

- Highway system
1 to 4 meters wide
- Bridges, *oroyas*, regular stations



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OTHER INFRASTRUCTURES

- Postal system (*chasqui*)
- State storage facilities
- Aqueducts
- Terraces



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INCA ARMY

- Sapa Inca didn't inherit lands.
- 35,000 to 140,000 men.
- Each man had to go to war at least once.
- Took sacred objects as hostages.



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RELIGION & IDEOLOGY

- Official Pantheon

Legitimize Inca power

- Animistic spirits: *Huacas*

Guardians of people, places or things

INCA PANTHEON



Viracocha
The creator



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INCA PANTHEON



Inti
Sun God
Ancestor of Inca Dynasty



Argentina



Peru (1820)



Uruguay

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INCA PANTHEON



Mamaquilla

Mamacocha
mother sea



Pachamama
mother earth



Illapa

Pachacamac



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ANIMISTIC SPIRITS: *HUACAS*

Mummies
(burned by the Spanish)



Water



Snow covered
mountain peaks

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MATERIAL CULTURE

- **METALS:** bronze, copper, gold, silver. No techniques for working iron or steel.
- **CLOTH:** the most precious good.



Inca tunic

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INCA ARCHITECTURE



No mortar used, not enough space to slide a sheet of paper between the stones.

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Thank you!

See you soon!



Time to wake up...

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