



THE SECRET OF THE INCAS

2.9

EXAM #1

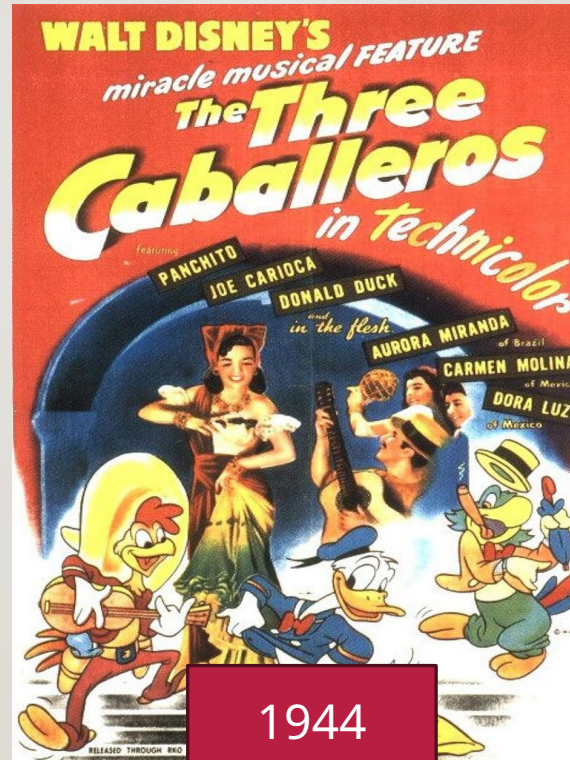
- Online – Monday 2/12. OAKS > Course info.
- Can do it any time during the day (6am-midnight), 80 minutes. Finish once started.
- Individual.
- Can use notes BUT you need to study.
- Power Points, your notes. Guide in OAKS > Course info.
- Format: multiple choice, quote analysis, image analysis, short responses
- Answers MUST come from class. Outside information, even when accurate, won't count.
- Questions?

SUMMARY



1933

Beginning of WWII and of GNP



1944

Height of WWII and GNP



1954

Beginning of the Cold War and end of GNP

1950S COLD WAR

- Early stages of the Cold War – What was this?
 - Ideological and military conflicts between the “First world” (US + Western Europe /capitalism) and the “Second world” (the USSR / communism), played out primarily in the “Third world” (the previously colonized nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America), after end of WWII. **Polarization.**
- 1954:
 - Korean War has ended in 1953.
 - Creation of the Eastern Bloc – Eastern Europe in USSR sphere of influence/control. Iron Curtain division.
 - **Domino Theory.**

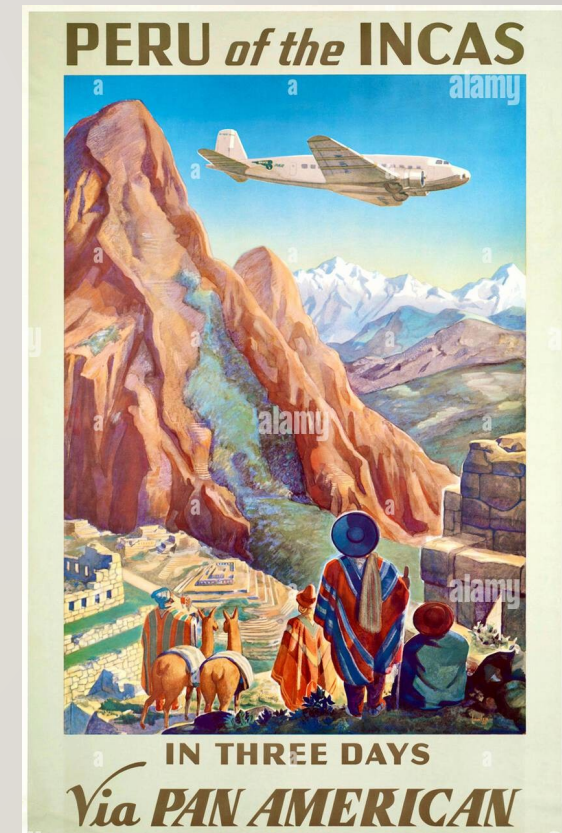


Fear that non-aligned
nations would fall to
communism



PERU IN THE 1950S

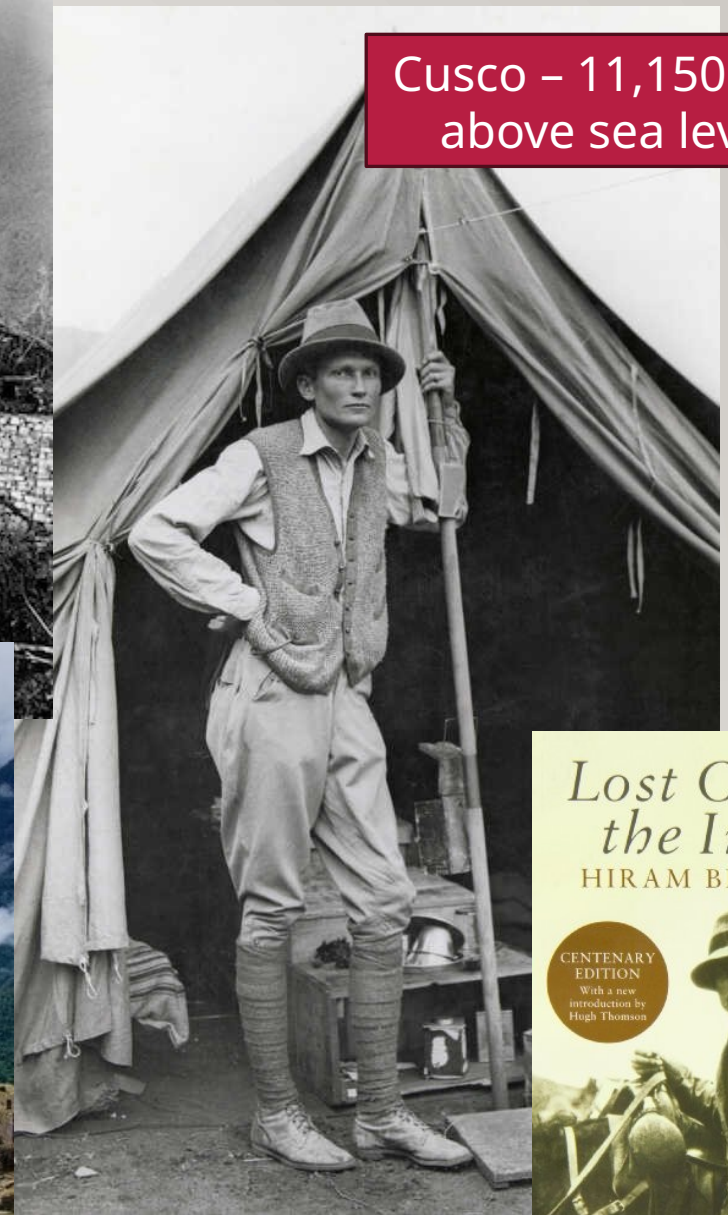
- Not a primary concern of the US in Cold War context.
- Peru was beginning to rediscover its Incan past as part of its national identity. Importance of archeology. Making it marketable and source for tourism.
 - Aimed at US and European audiences.
- Land of “millenarian cultures”: exotic, mystical, outside of modernity.
- Very unequal society: rich landowner class, very poor peasant/indigenous masses (“Incas yes, Indians no”).



Resurfacing of Machu Picchu in 1911 – Hiram Bingham

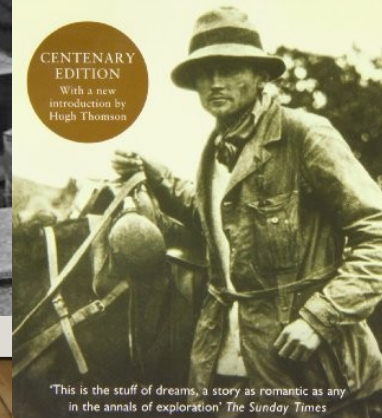


Cusco – 11,150 feet
above sea level



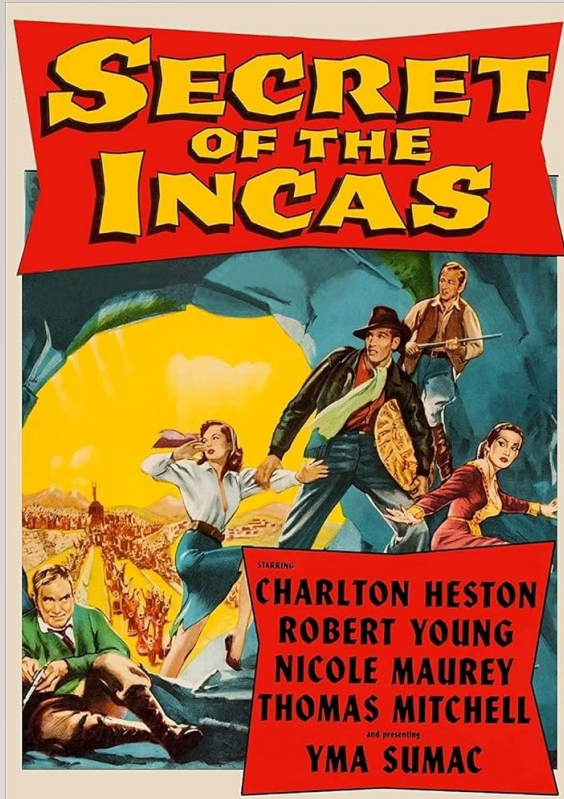
*Lost City of
the Incas*
HIRAM BINGHAM

CENTENARY
EDITION
With a new
introduction by
Hugh Thomson



'This is the stuff of dreams, a story as romantic as any
in the annals of exploration' *The Sunday Times*

THE SECRET OF THE INCAS (1954)



- In groups, general impressions. How would you characterize this film? How is this film similar or different from past films? Connections to other readings?
- Now, summary:
 - Plot
 - Characters
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
- How is indigeneity represented?

Voiceless,
expressionless
masses

YMA SUMAC



Questions
about
authenticity
and identity

- Yma Sumac (Zoila Emperatriz Chávarry del Castillo) was a Peruvian opera singer with a wide vocal range. Became another early “Latin diva” very popular in the 1950s.
- Her music combined Andean instruments with Caribbean genres. It was known in the 50s as “easy listening” or “exotica”. Escapist, especially after the war.
- But in Peru she was considered a sellout (like Carmen Miranda), who misrepresented Peruvian music and culture for economic gain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JWxNqyIRtk>

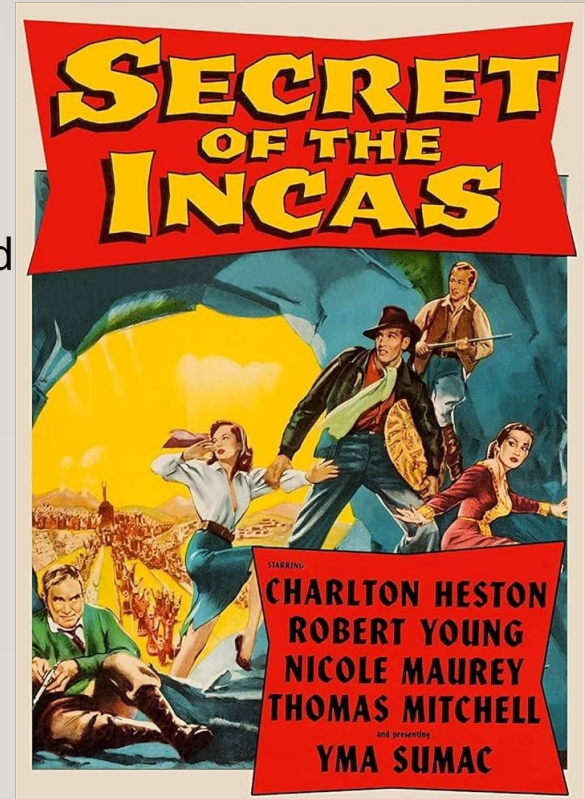


Yma Sumac Collapses
LOS ANGELES, July 30 (AP) —Yma Sumac, the singer, is under a doctor's care after collapsing at her home yesterday. A physician administered sedatives and said that she could not sing last night at the Coconut Grove, where she is appearing.

The New York Times
Published: July 31, 1955
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THE SECRET OF THE INCAS (1954)

- Is there a sense of Pan Americanism or “good neighborliness” in the film?
 - Little, beyond the adventuring and extraction. The point for all characters is to “leave Peru”. Harry’s skills (speaking Spanish, flying planes) helps him and Elena achieve these goals. Peruvians secondary. Andean culture decontextualized.
 - Seedy underbelly of tourism.
- How can we read Harry Steele’s / Elena Antonescu’s relationship in the context of the Cold War?
 - Steele leaves the sunburst for Elena.
 - US trying to help or “court” Eastern European nations – Romania under Soviet influence but trying to assert more independence.
 - Latin America less a focus with conflicts taking place elsewhere.



THE SECRET OF THE INCAS (1954)

- “Not much to see. Native dances, maybe, if you’re interested”
- “We won’t see anyone there. Few Indians, maybe”
- “No one comes here without a reason. The only reason is to dig. I don’t like the competition”
- “Maybe I’ve already found something to take its [the sunburst] place”

