

# THE INCA EMPIRE

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# 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

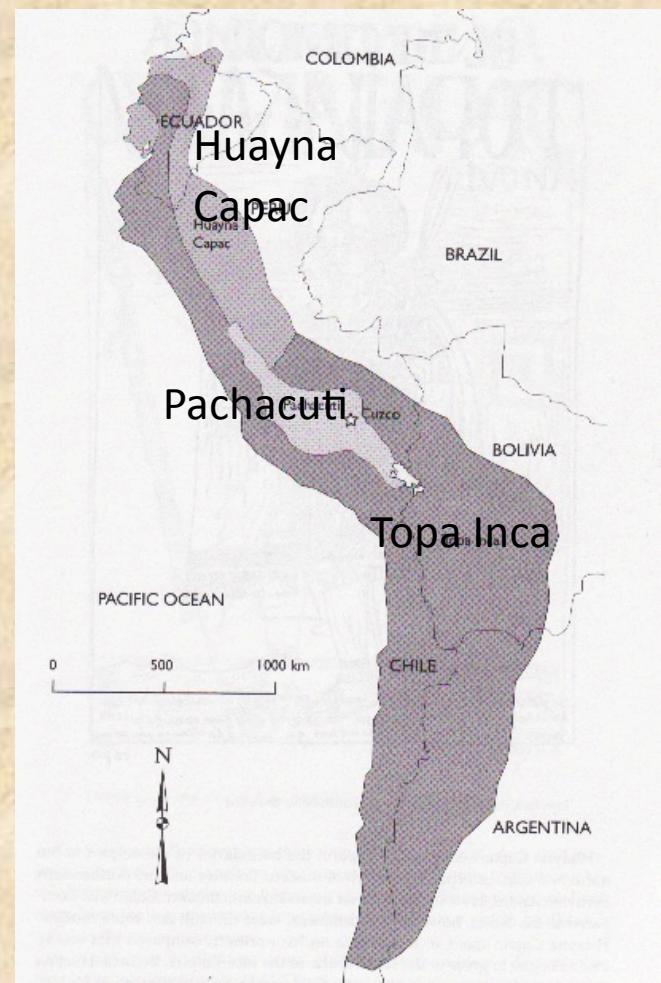
## SAPA INCA ("unique Ruler")

## REIGN

Manco Capac	?	(1100 – 1200 A.D.)
Sinchi Roca	?	
Lloque Yupanqui	?	
Mayta Capac	?	
Capac Yupanqui	?	
Inca Roca	?	
Yahuar Huacac	?	
Viracocha	?	– 1438
Pachacutí ("Earth shaker")	1438	– 1471
Topa Inca	1471	– 1493
Huayna Capac	1493	– 1525
Huascar / Atahualpa	1525	– 1532 / 1532 – 1535

# EMPIRE EXPANSION

- Started with Pachacutí (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
- Huayna Capac had some difficulties at the North-East



# DECLINE

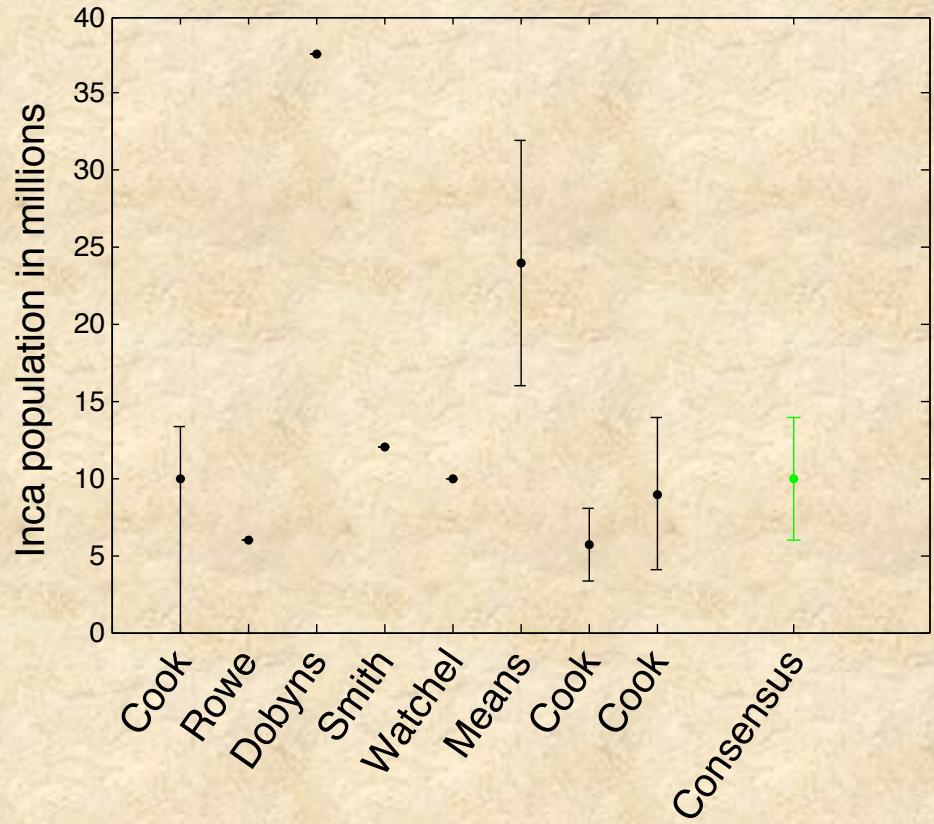
- Long absence of Huavna Capac from Cuzco
- War of succession between 2 of his sons: Huascar and Atahuallpa
- Population dying from European diseases (smallpox)
- Arrival of the Spaniards (Pízaro) with better weapons and war tactics

The Spaniards take over Cuzco on November 16, 1532

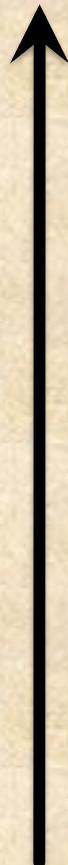
# POPULATION

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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



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# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

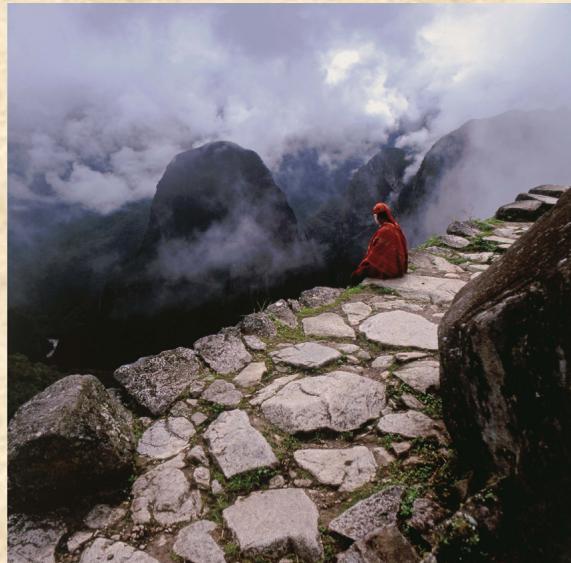
- División in regions function of number of people.

Curacas	Heads of households
<i>hunu curaca</i>	10,000
<i>píska waranga curaca</i>	5,000
<i>waranqa curaca</i>	1,000
<i>písca 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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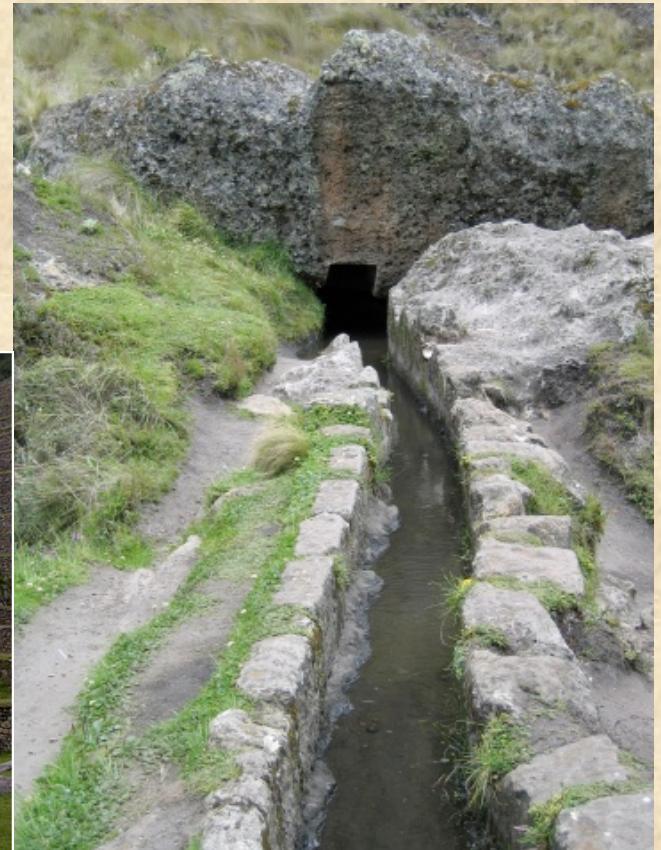
Politics

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# OTHER INFRASTRUCTURES

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



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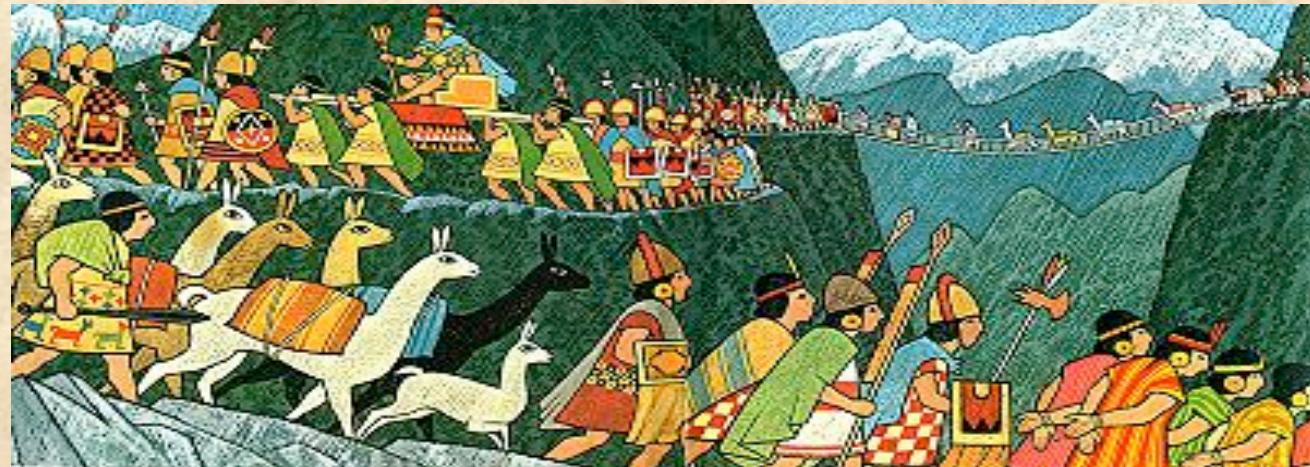
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# INCA ARMY

- 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.



# RELIGION & IDEOLOGY

- Official Pantheon  
Legitimize Inca power
- Animistic spirits: *Huacas*  
Guardians of people, places or things

# INCA PANTHEON



Víracoche  
The creator



History

Society

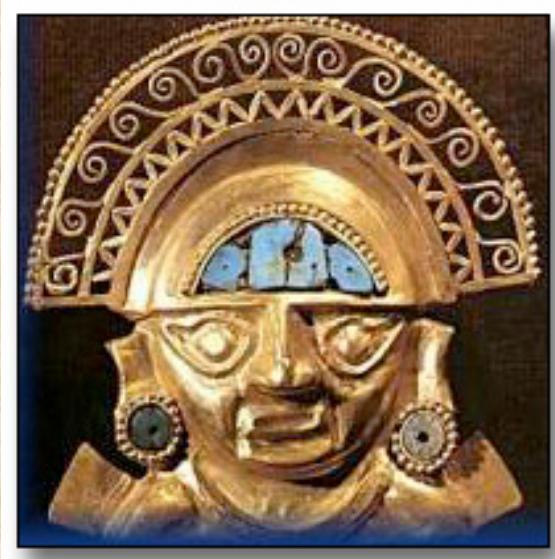
Economy

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# INCA PANTHEON



Intí  
Sun God  
Ancestor of Inca Dynasty



Argentina



Peru (1820)



Uruguay

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# INCA PANTHEON

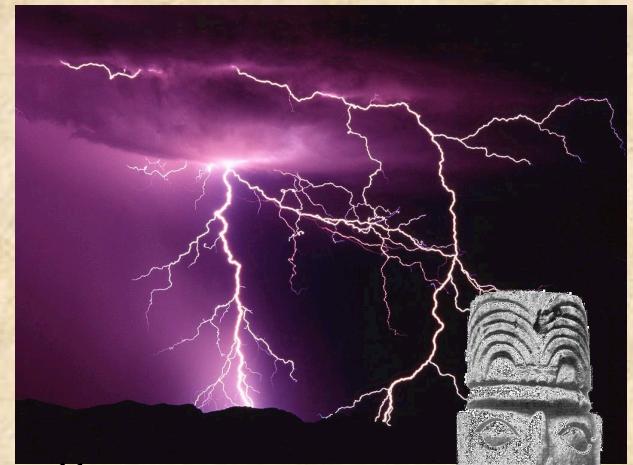


Mamaquilla

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 túníc

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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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# References

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