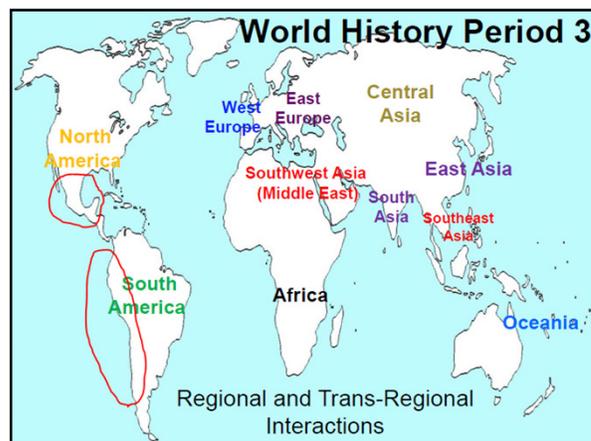


Chapter 11: The Americas on the Eve of Invasion

By Logan Peretz, Gina Grosso, Evy Sands, Nathan Barnavon

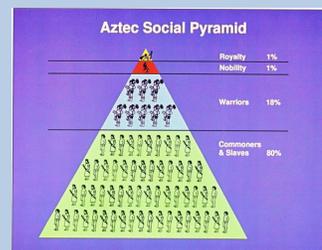


Aztecs -- The Essential Vocabulary

- Chinampas – Beds of aquatic weeds, mud, and earth that were placed in frame made of cane and rooted the lake floor. An ingenious agricultural invention
- Pochteca – The special merchant class which specialized in long-distance trade.
- Calpulli – The conglomeration of the seven clans, a form of organization that later expanded and adapted to their imperial position.

The Aztecs -- Social

- Militant Empire
- Royalty on top
- Nobles oversaw lands that slaves/commoners worked on
- Social Mobility
- Women – cared for children, took care of household
- Women's rights recognized, although remained subordinate



The Aztecs -- Political



- Capital – Tenochtitlan – present day Mexico City
- Divided into city-states ruled by a speaker chosen from nobility
- Nobles from city-states were appointed, elected kings
- 7 clans named calpulli, which helped organize imperial position

The Aztecs -- Interaction

- Used Chinampas, new form of agriculture
- Pyramids & temples for the gods
- Aqueducts to bring water into the cities



The Aztecs -- Cultural



- Unique culture / religion
- Polytheistic religion
- Human sacrifice
- Important Gods – Sun God, Creator God

The Aztecs -- Economic

- Produced their own food and supplies, economy not revolved around trade
- Pochtecas (long distance merchants) were the only ones to trade
- Received tribute for conquered lands
- State controlled use and distribution of many different commodities

Incas – The Essential Vocabulary

- Ayllus – Quechua speaking clans, much like calpulli
- Tambos – modern-day rest stops
- Mita - labor switches
- Yanas – peoples who were removed from ayllus and now are artisans, merchants, etc.
- Quipu – system of knots used like an abacus

The Incas -- Social

- Emperor on top
- Militant, social hierarchy much like Aztecs
- Women were allowed to own property rights, nobility was able to be passed in both male and female lines; however, still viewed inferior because of the military society

The Incas -- Political

- Ayllus controlled sectors of land and the communities who worked the land.
- Inca empire split into 4 great provinces which were again split. These further split states were given to curacas (local rulers)
- State bureaucracy

The Incas -- Interaction

- Macchu Piccu
- Temple of the Sun
- Pyramids
- System of roads and tambos
- Irrigation management
- Architecture



The Incas -- Cultural

- Much like Aztec Culture
- Polytheistic
- Sun God, Creator God important
- Human Sacrifice
- Language of Quechua
- Created Quipu – form of counting using knots
- Great at metalworking



The Incas -- Economic

- Mita - communities were expected to alternate in performing projects
- Self Sufficient, depended on state for goods that could not easily be acquired
- Less focused on trade, did not have a merchant class

Question Review

- During the postclassical period, societies in the Americas
 - Had a strong sense of common heritage
 - Did not have a sense of common identity
 - Did not develop large urban centers
 - Never formed imperial forms of government.

- The Aztecs rose to power through all of the following means EXCEPT
 - Control of water and irrigation
 - Political alliances with neighboring cities
 - Warfare
 - A parliamentary system
- The religious justification for human sacrifice was that
 - The gods of rain, maize, and fertility needed to be fed human blood.
 - Prisoners of war were too numerous, and needed to be removed because they were dangerous to society.
 - The sun god needed constant nourishment to fight the forces of the night
 - Without human blood, the great city Tenochtitlan would collapse.

- Because of their level of technical development, Aztec work and production
 - Relied heavily on tools and machines
 - Utilized domesticated beasts of burden extensively
 - Richly rewarded intellectual invention and innovation
 - Relied heavily on the physical labor of humans
- All land in the Inca State
 - Belonged to the priests and religious institutions
 - Was owned by merchants and traders for investment purposes
 - Belonged to the oldest woman of the family or clan
 - Was owned by the state but assigned to others for their use

- Which of the following is NOT true
 - The Inca never developed a writing system
 - Both Aztec and Inca forced other societies to recognize their supremacy
 - The Inca far exceeded the Aztecs in terms of trade
 - Both the Aztecs and Inca practiced extensive agriculture
- Incan state administration and resource distribution system was based on the concept of
 - Individualism
 - First come, first serve
 - Age
 - Reciprocity