Inca Society and Organization
with drawings from Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala

Language

• 100 + languages spoken in the Empire
• Quechua [Runasimi] was imposed as lingua franca
• Words from Quechua: coca, condor, guano, gaucho, guanaco, Inca, jerky, lagniappe, lima [bean], llama, pampa, puma, quipu, quinine, quinoa, and vicuña
• At least 7 dialects of Quechua today
Conquest
- Surrender or else ultimatums
- Sons/daughters of local leaders brought to Cuzco for “education”
- Local deities (Wacas) brought to the Koricancha (Temple of the Sun)
- Mita (tribute)
- Mitimaq (colonization policy)
- Road system

Mitimaqs
- Colonists from secure areas to recently conquered areas
- People from recent areas go to secure areas
- Much rearrangement of people occurred creating long-standing jealousies and resentments
- Movement controls
  - By permission only
  - Must wear identifiable hats or clothing

Mita
- Verticality/archipelago principles
- Tribute from all corners
- Textiles
- Labor
  - Agricultural fields
  - Army
  - Civil projects
  - Religious training and acolytes
  - For the Inca and nobility
  - Mines
Armies and Orejones

- 40,000
- 10,000 in each suyo
- Subdivided into decimal units
- Leadership at each level of 5
- Orejones
  - Inca nobles appointed to govern and visitors to conquered areas and local kurakas to organize tribute
  - Settle disputes
- Strict rules with severe punishments

Roads

- One major road out of Cuzco into each suyo
  - Roads were built in areas that already had them from previous polities
  - New ones to accommodate new areas
- Over mountains and along the coast
- Easy to move armies quickly over great distances

Highways

- Demonstrated the power of the Incas
- Aided in the flow of communication
- Some roads led to religious shrines
- Connected various “archipelagoes”
- Politically integrated the empire
Chaskis and Tambos

- Tambos were storage depots along the road
  - Supplied the army
  - Supplied the people during sieges and natural catastrophes
  - Stocked with food and textiles
- Chaskis relay runners
  - Messages
  - Luxury items

Data keepers

- Data kept on “quipus”
  - Quipucamayoq
    - Cord color
    - Relative spacing of knots
    - Knot size
    - Type of knot

Land Redistribution

- 1/3 to Inca State
- 1/3 to State Religion
- 1/3 to local community
  - Redistributed annually
  - 1 topu/adult
  - 1 topu/male child
  - ½ topu/female child
**City Planning**

- Organized into sectors by
  - Kinship
  - Ethnicity
- Fortresses, temples & administrative centers all with direct supply line connections
- Streets had drains
- Trapezoidal door – not true arch

**Stoneworking**

- Stones quarried at great distances
- Temples built on mounds
- Upper classes- cut-stone masonry bldgs.
- Poorer classes made of adobe & odd-shaped rocks
- Pillowed effect for good stoneworking

**Social Organization**

- Three principles
  - Duality (Moieties)
  - Tripartite divisions
  - Decimal divisions \([5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000, 10,000]\)

**Dualism in Ethnicity**

- Nobles
  - By birth
  - By privilege
- Commoners
  - Kurakas
  - Ayllus
Nobles

- Hanan (Upper Cuzco)
  - 5 most recent Incas and their 5 ayllus
  - Their mummies (wacas)
    • Organized around the the Koricancha
    • Inti
    • 5 clan gated communities
- Hurin (Lower Cuzco)
  - 5 oldest Incas and their 5 ayllus
  - Mummies in the Koricancha
    • Viracocha
    • 5 clan gated communities

Dualism in Imperial Order

- Upper Half Empire (Hanan Inca)
  - Chinchaysuyo Clan 6+9+10
    • upper halfquarter
    • North
  - Antisuyo (Clan 7 + 8)
    • lower halfquarter
    • East
- Lower Half Empire (Hurin Inca)
  - Qollasuyo (upper quarter) (Clan 1+2)
    • South
  - Condesuyo (lower quarter) (Clan 3, 4, 5)
    • West

Zeques

- Division of the Greater Cuzco Area
  - 3 zeques (sections)
    • Collana
    • Payan
    • Cayao
  - 3 groups of zeques in each suyo
    • 3 groups of 3 zeques (9 total zeques)
- Zeques also
  • Marriage groups (classes)

Marriage classes
Calendric System

- 4 groups of three
- 12 weeks per group
- 3 weeks in a month
- 12 months
- 10 days to a week
- 30 days to a month
- Winter solstice on June 21 (Greg)
- Summer solstice on December 21
- 1000 years to an “age”
- 5 Ages in Earth’s Past
- Pachacuti every 500 years

Spatial Distribution

Condesuyo  Chinchaysuyo

\[\text{Cuzco}\]

Qollasuyo  Antisuyo

Kinship/Inheritance

- Viracocha
- Sun
- Venus/Morning Star
- Camac Pacha/Lord of the Earth
- Man
- Moon
- Venus/Evening Star
- Mama Coca/ Mother of the Ocean
- Woman
Inca Son (Upper Cuzco)
(Grand)Son
(Great Grand)Son
(Great, Great Grand)Son

Daughter (Lower Cuzco)
(Grand)Daughter
(Great Grand)Daughter
(Great, Great Grand)Daughter

PANACA Kinship System
Bilateral inheritance

Inca Organizational Structure
Reciprocity
Incas
Kurakas
Ayllus

Spanish Organizational Structure
Reciprocity only at local level
Spaniards
Kurakas
Ayllus