

## Latin American History Study Guide

### Geography of Latin America

- Countries south of the USA in North, Central, south America and the Caribbean
- Originally used by French geographers to differentiate between Anglo and Romance languages.

Latin America has further been divided by language and location

- Spanish and Portuguese speaking portions of Central and South America
- The French, Dutch, and English speaking parts of Central and South America in the Caribbean Region
- A group of countries in the American continent where Latin languages such as Spanish, French and Portuguese are spoken.
- The Relative location of Latin America: North: bordered by the USA; West: bordered by the eastern pacific region; East: bordered by a string of British possessions in the Atlantic region; South: bordered by Cape Horn.

-Latin American Map:



### The OLMEC CIVILIZATION

- Located in the tropical lowlands of south-central Mexico (roughly the modern-day states of Veracruz and Tabasco)
- Alluvial soils: A fine-grained fertile soil deposited by water flowing over flood plains or in river beds. Rivers for transportation. Surplus production led to a rise in population.
- Most Olmec were farmers and fishers. They lived in villages near rivers on the top of earthen mounds. They grew maize, beans, squash, and peppers

### The Aztec Empire

-They originated in north or northwest Mexico. It was a small nomadic band of Nahuatl speakers that lived in Lake TEXCOCO of the Mexico Basin (interconnected lakes including Chalco, Texcoco, and Xaltocan).

- AZTEC ORIGIN MYTH\*\*\*

-The Aztec came from Aztlan (white place- place of Herons) in the Mexico Basin. They were led by Tenoch following the orders of Huitzilopochtli, who told Tenoch to lead his people to Lake Texcoco. “When you reach your destination, you are to look for an eagle perched on a cactus, growing from a rock or cave surrounded by water.” The mythology led to the creation of Tenochtitlan.

-Tenochtitlan: An over five square mile chinampa with walls of serpent sculptures, houses of priests and nobility, Tzompantli altar (skull rack). It had three causeways linked to the mainland and wooden bridges that could be raised.

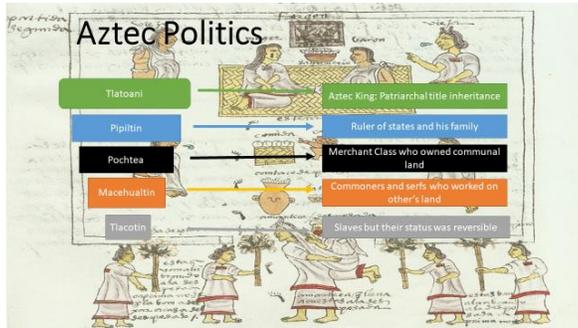
-The rise of the Aztec Empire: The Aztecs were war mercenaries that worked along with Tepanecs. However, the Aztecs broke relations and fought against Tepanecs for resources.

-The Tripple Alliance: Tenochtitlan joined with Texcoco and Tlacopan. In 1428 the alliance defeated the Tepanecs. Tenochtitlan became the center of power. By the early 1500s, the Aztec Empire stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean.

-Building the empire: Tribute sufficed the livelihood of Tenochtitlan's population. The god Huitzilopochtli required human blood for survival, therefore the Aztec used human sacrifice to frighten other cities.

-Aztec Declaration of war: The Aztecs asked a city to join the empire as an ally. The city had 60 days to agree. If the ruler refused the Aztecs declared war. After the city fell, the Aztecs took their captives. Cities had to pay tribute but remained independent.

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- Reasons for Aztec Conquest \*\*\*\*

1. Moctezuma II was expecting the return of a God called Quetzalcoatl.
2. Other tribes gave Cortés their military support as they considered the Aztecs their enemies.
3. The Spanish brought European diseases with them
4. On August 13th 1521 the Aztecs were colonized by the Spanish (CORTEZ)

## The Inca

- The Inca Civilization originated in the Cusco area of Peru

-The INCA were influenced by the MOCHE and the CHIMU.

-The Moche lived along the northern coast of Peru from about 100 c.e. to 700 c.e.

- The Chimu kingdom in northern Peru flourished during the 1300s and 1400s.

-The Inca Origin myth: \*\*\*\*

- Inti appeared to an Inca ruler instructing him to expand the Empire. Chanacas attacked the Inca Empire. The King ran away along with his people. Yupanqui led his army against the Chanacas. Stones turned to warriors. Yupanqui took the name of Pachacuti and began to conquer other areas including the Chimu territory

-The territory of the Inca Empire:

- First settlement in Cusco.

-It reached from the Pacific Coast in the west to the Amazon River Basin in the east. They Conquered by: 1. Sent a missionary; 2. Military invasion; 3. Sent governors, teachers, (new tribes needed to be like the INCAS)

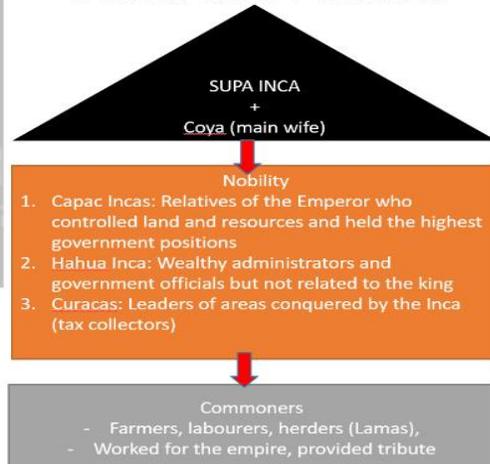
-Roads and Messages

- 15,000 miles of road. Chasquis (messengers) relayed a message to up to 250 miles a day. Quipos (different colored strings) served to help memory.

## Inca Social Life \*\*\*\*\*



## Social and Political



-Inca Agriculture: Terracing and complex irrigation systems. Planted 20 types of corn and 200 types of potato (survived altitudes 15,000 feet). Lamas used for meat and transportation.

-Family life: The Inca Lived in larger clan called Ayllus. Each ayllu had its own farming land and homes. They made Communal efforts= head of household governed ten households and required Mi'ita (taxes).