



Inca Empire

(1400s to 1533,
although the last Inca state didn't submit to Spain
until 1572)

The Inca emperor married one of his sisters, to assure that the blood line of the emperors would remain pure.

The empire was some 4500 kilometers running north-south (just under the distance across the US). Across their territory spanned 22,000 kilometers of roads (over 4 trips across the US). Messengers would run relays and cover a combined total of 240 kilometers in a given day (about as long as a trip from VVC to San Diego).

Roads and rope bridges were constructed and maintained, to secure communications throughout empire. Aqueducts were built that brought in water to villages. The land was terraced, to provide ground to farm crops

Rigid system of control

- For every 10,000 people, there were 1,331 overseers, starting with one over a group of 10, then 10 more over every group of 100.
- Flocks of llamas, and mines throughout the empire, were under the control of the Inca emperor and government
- Inca undertook annual censuses, counting people and enumerating the quality of the land and its produce. Land was re-divided, based upon family size

Conquered land was divided among three sections: land devoted to the Sun god, land devoted to support the Inca, and that devoted to the people in that area. Work done on Inca land was known as the *mit'a*.

People who resisted Inca authority had their nobles killed, and their districts broken up; often their populations would be exiled to other regions of the empire.

Interesting facts about the Inca:

They had no system of money, doing little if any trade with the outside world
They didn't have the use of the wheel, or of beasts of burden