**INCA vs AZTEC: Comparative Analysis**

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| **Topic** | **INCA** | **BOTH** | **AZTEC** |
| **Background Information** |  |  |  |
| **Economy** |  |  |  |
| **Political Form of State** |  |  |  |
| **Social Structure and/or Religion** |  |  |  |

**INCA vs AZTEC: Comparative Analysis (NOTES)**

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| **Topic** | **INCA** | **BOTH** | **AZTEC** |
| **Background Information** | * Moche = 200 BCE – 700 CE * Chimor = 900 – 1465 CE   + Capital = Chan Chan * Ayllus = Andean family clans that banded together * Under Pachacuti, the Inca established their capital at Cuzco in 1438 | * Built on achievements of predecessors * Militaristic rivalry * Emerging empires * Isolated on the eve of European contact | * Mayan collapse – 8th century * Toltecs = 1000 – 1200 CE   + Capital at Tula * Migration to Lake Texcoco in central Mexico from the north * Founded Tenochitlan in 1325 |
| **Economy** | * (Similar to Feudal Europe) local **AGRICULTURE** based on maize, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, peanuts, coco, and cotton * Terrace farming = **WARU WARU** * **QUIPU** = knotted strings for recording numbers * Long distance **TRADE** controlled by government with shared warehouse controlled by local ruler | * Agricultural based economy * Understanding and control of their environments * Aztec had a greater trade network and therefore more stable and diversified economy | * Relatively strong **TRADE** routes throughout present day American and central America * **POCHTECA** = developed merchant class that sold luxury goods (social hierarchy just below nobles and priests) * **CHINAMPAS** = floating gardens * Used a variety of hand tools and knowledge of irrigation, fertilizers, terracing, and tree harvest |
| **Political Form of State** | * Split the government into 4 provinces each with a governor and bureaucracy = **CENTRALIZED** * Government was strict with harsh punishments for laziness = **TOTALITARIAN** * **MITA** = system of mandatory public service, typically labor | * Growing civilizations necessitated governing structures * Inca more totalitarian in order to maintain economic success / survival * Aztec more decentralized to allow for greater autonomy and control of conquered regions | * Loose coalition of city-states into provinces under Tenochitlan **DECENTRALIZED** * **TRIBUTE SYSTEM** = conquered people had to give food, supplies, luxury items to the rulers in exchange for protection * Tribute drove desire to expand * **THEOCRACY** = emperor or “Great Speaker” as the top |
| **Social Structure and/or Religion** | * **Polytheistic**, most important Gods were Sun/War God = Init, and Viracocha = creator God * Animal sacrifice, but not human * **AYLLU** = family groups that worked for the government * CLASS STRUCTURE = small nobility; most were farmers | * Similar religious beliefs with an emphasis on agricultural and warrior gods * Aztec class structure allowed for more opportunity and social mobility * Incan social structure was extremely stratified | * **Polytheistic**, most important Gods were Sun/War God = Huitzilopochtli and **Quetzalcoatl** = ancient god of Civilization * **HUMAN SACRIFICE** * CALPULLI = nuclear families organized into working groups that distributed land and provided labor and warriors * CLASS STRUCTURE = Ruler; Noble Class with Priests, administration, etc.; Artisans and Merchants; Workers; |

**Follow Up Analysis:**

***Directions****: For each of the categories draft the following:*

* + A statement of comparison that notes either the similarities or differences AND explains the reason for the similarities/differences you noted.
  + A statement of significance that notes the effects and or historical importance of each comparison.

Sample for Background Information

* + [COMPARISON] **Both the Aztecs in Mesoamerica and the Inca in the Andes Mountains were built on the achievements of previous societies in the Americas and shared a history of militaristic rivalry. Previous societies such as the Mayan, Toltec, and Moche established agricultural communities that loosely and informally organized early civilizations.**
  + [SIGNIFICANCE] **By the 14th and 15th centuries the Aztec and Inca were emerging and expanding empires that were isolated from the rest of the world. By comparison to Europe, Africa, and Asia, American civilizations were seen as less developed and primitive.**

***Directions****: Complete for the 3 remaining categories*

ECONOMY

* + [COMPARISON]
  + [SIGNIFICANCE]

POLITICAL FORM OF STATE

* + [COMPARISON]
  + [SIGNIFICANCE]

SOCIAL STRUCTURE and/or RELIGION

* + [COMPARISON]
  + [SIGNIFICANCE]