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The Incas (Ancient Peoples And Places)



Synopsis

In less than a century the Incas rose from obscure origins to build one of the largest empires of the ancient world. At its zenith it extended northward from the Inca capital Cuzco along the spine of the Andes to embrace most of modern Peru and Ecuador, and southward into Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. The sheer scale of the empire, coupled with the challenges of the rugged landscape, made the Inca achievement truly remarkable. This is the most up-to-date and authoritative account available of the Incas: their politics, economics, religion, architecture, art, and technology. The authors look in detail at the four parts of the empire, exploring not just famous sites such as Machu Picchu but all the major regional settlements. The book concludes with the end of the empire: the arrival of the Spaniards, the assassination of the Inca ruler Atawallpa, and the final years of the rebellious, neo-Inca state in the tropical forests of Vilcabamba. 49 full-color and 140 black-and-white illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A lively, deeply informed and highly readable account of the last great empire of pre-Columbian South America.” - Gary Urton, Harvard University

The late Craig Morris is renowned for his excavation of Huãfñu Pampa, the largest surviving Inca ruin. He was Curator of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Adriana von Hagen is co-director of the Leymebamba Museum in Chachapoyas, Peru, and an

expert on Peruvian archaeology.

Awesome book, so comprehensive and gorgeous color photos

Readable text, great illustrations. I highly recommend this work. Anyone planning to visit the Inca homeland should read this book.

The quality is pretty good.

Finally after a lot of reading and mixed interpretation of the Inca along with yet another predictable recounting of the conquistador's arrival and subsequent destruction of the civilisation, I have come across Adriana Von Hagen. The Von Hagen family have a long history of exploration in, and writing about, Peru (and other pre-Colombian cultures - do a Google search!) This book reflects this dedication and sound knowledge. Von Hagen and her co-author Craig Morris encapsulate the development of the Inca, their beliefs and culture and how that impacted on daily life. In addition, the importance of roading, communication, building expertise and their interaction with other cultures is dealt with in an insightful manner. The oft recounted story of the demise of the culture is covered in the last brief chapter. It is written in a manner that makes for an easy and dare I say at times exciting read but if I was to be critical there are a few things that seem to be glossed over, making it seem a little like an academic work at times. But I love this book - and it would make a great - if somewhat expensive - TV series! I hope someone else sees this too. I would put this work up with the writings of Vincent Lee (Forgotten Vilcabamba) and Keith Muscutt's *Warriors of the Clouds: A Lost Civilization in the Upper of Peru* - people who treat their readers as people of intelligence and who avoid the stories we have all come to know so well! Bravo!

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