



Meso-America

No Domesticated Animals

= small land plots = peasant poverty

Cities = Controlled trade routes = Religious sites (center)

= social unity and festivals

but not

urban living environs of production

# Mayans 300-900 AD

lived edges of Yucatan Jungle = divided

cities = no walls

mathematically advanced = zero (place holders)  
(religious purpose = astronomy)

pyramids = platforms = religion

sacbeob roads  
= straight connections through jungle



## Collapse 900-1000AD

large cities = outstripped resources

climate change (man made?) =  
food collapse

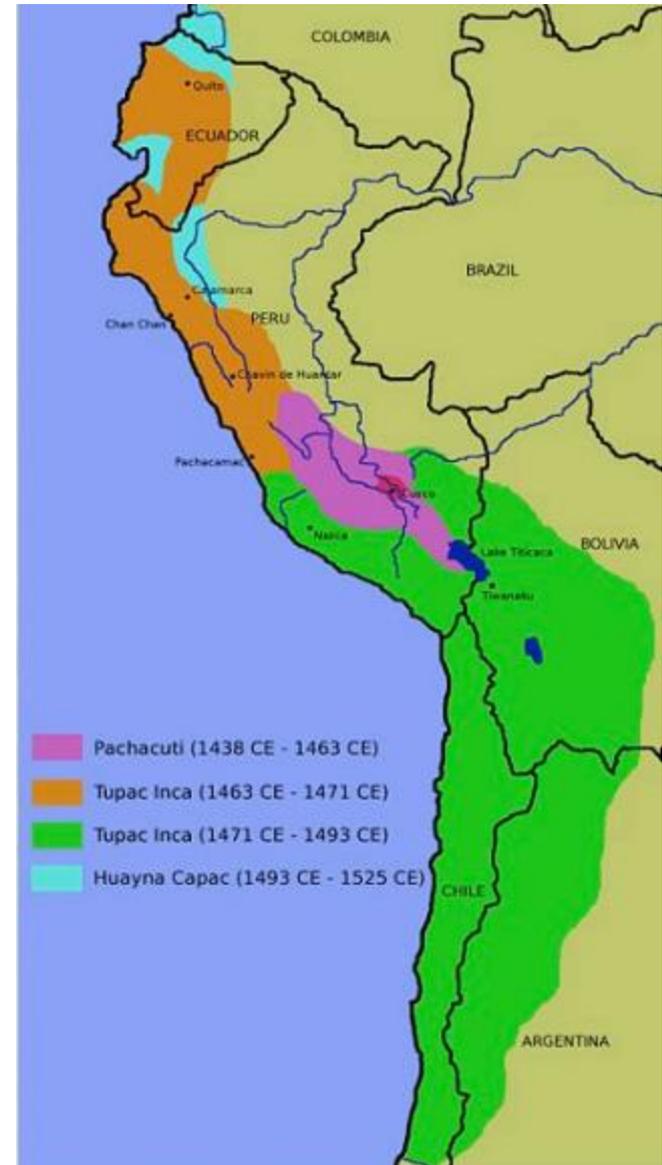
inter-mayan war + external invasion  
= urban collapse

dispersed population = dark age  
= jungle reclaimed area  
= lost cities / 7 cities of gold



# Incas (1400 – 1533)

1. Largest territorial empire  
= diversity = 10m ppl + 30 lang.



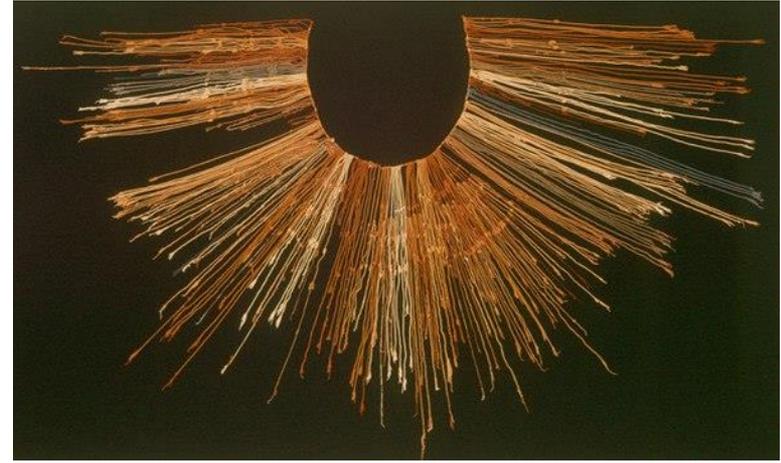
## Incas (1400 – 1533)

1. Largest territorial empire  
= diversity = 10m ppl + 30 lang.
2. Between sea and the Andes  
potato = high calorie in hard land
3. centralized govt, local governors = strong kings  
= infrastructure = binding distant areas together  
(roads, bridges, tunnels)



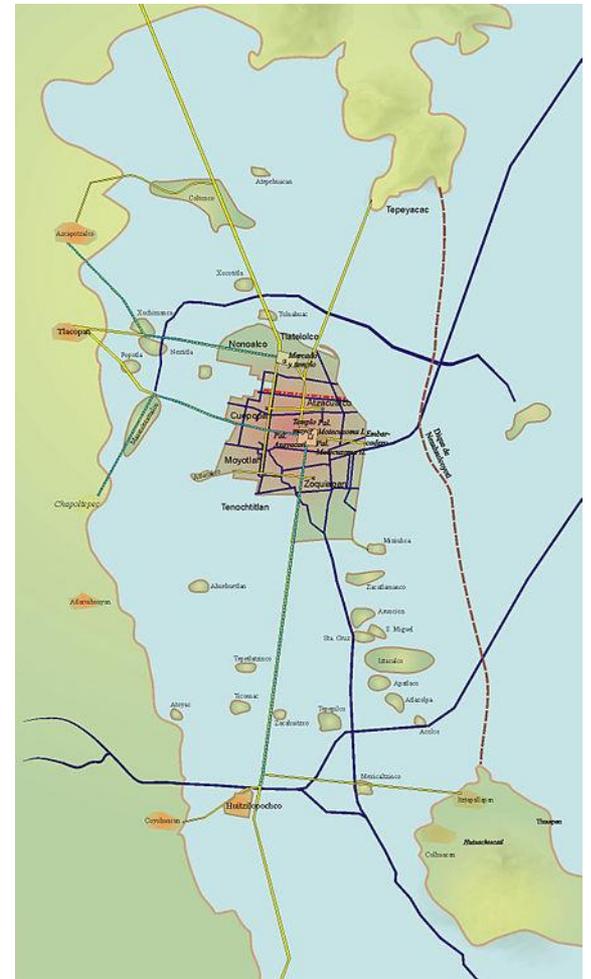
## Incas (1400 – 1533)

1. Largest territorial empire  
= diversity = 10m ppl + 30 lang.
2. Between sea and the Andes  
potato = high calorie in hard land
3. centralized govt, local governors = strong kings  
= infrastructure = binding distant areas together  
(roads, bridges, tunnels)
4. writing = quipu (knots)  
= adv, = disadv
5. conquered by the Pizarro and disease in 1530s



# Aztecs (1300s – 1520s)

1. Pushed out of N. Mexico
2. Moved to central Mexico  
built capital on island in  
lake = defense = attack others



## Aztecs (1300s – 1520s)

1. Pushed out of N. Mexico
2. Moved to central Mexico  
built capital on island in  
lake = defense = attack others
3. militarized society for religion  
conquered = tribute food.  
conquest of others not for \$ but ppl



# Aztec Empire

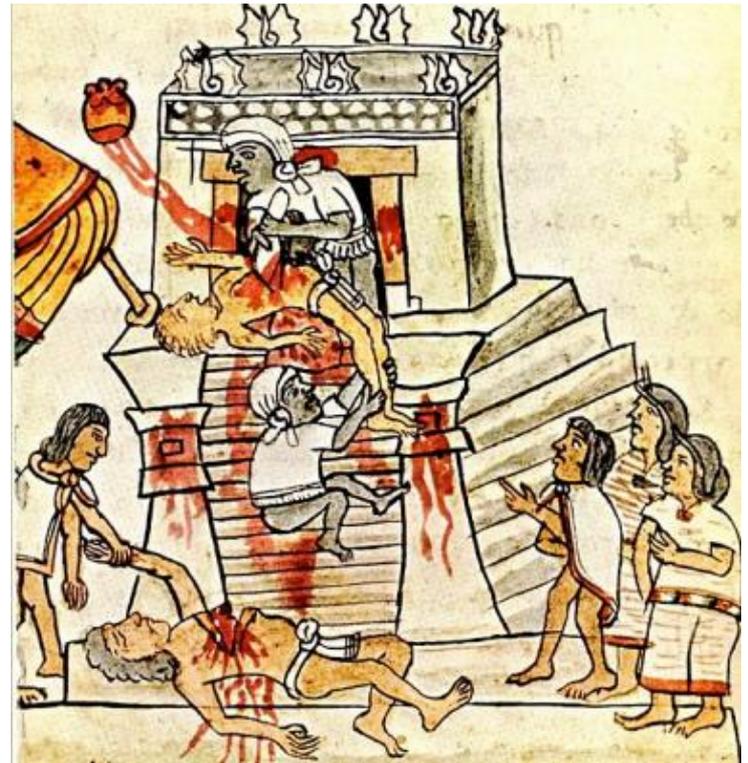
c. 1519



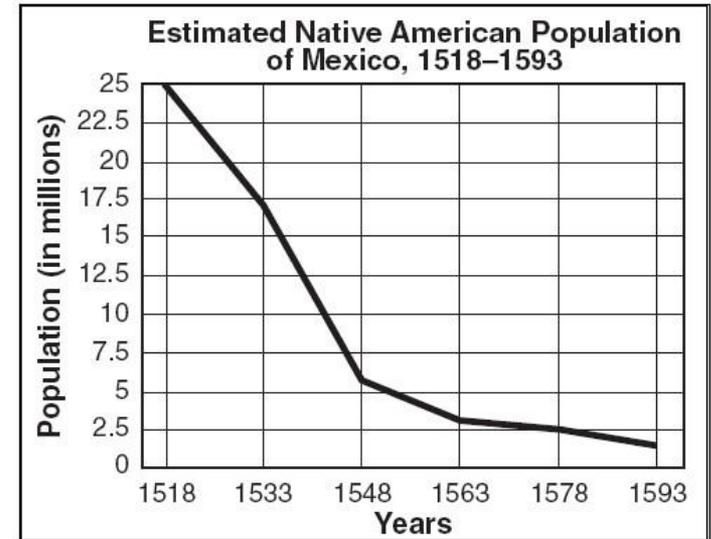
## 4. Human Sacrifice to Gods

adv = shows superiority (gods/men)  
= justification for empire

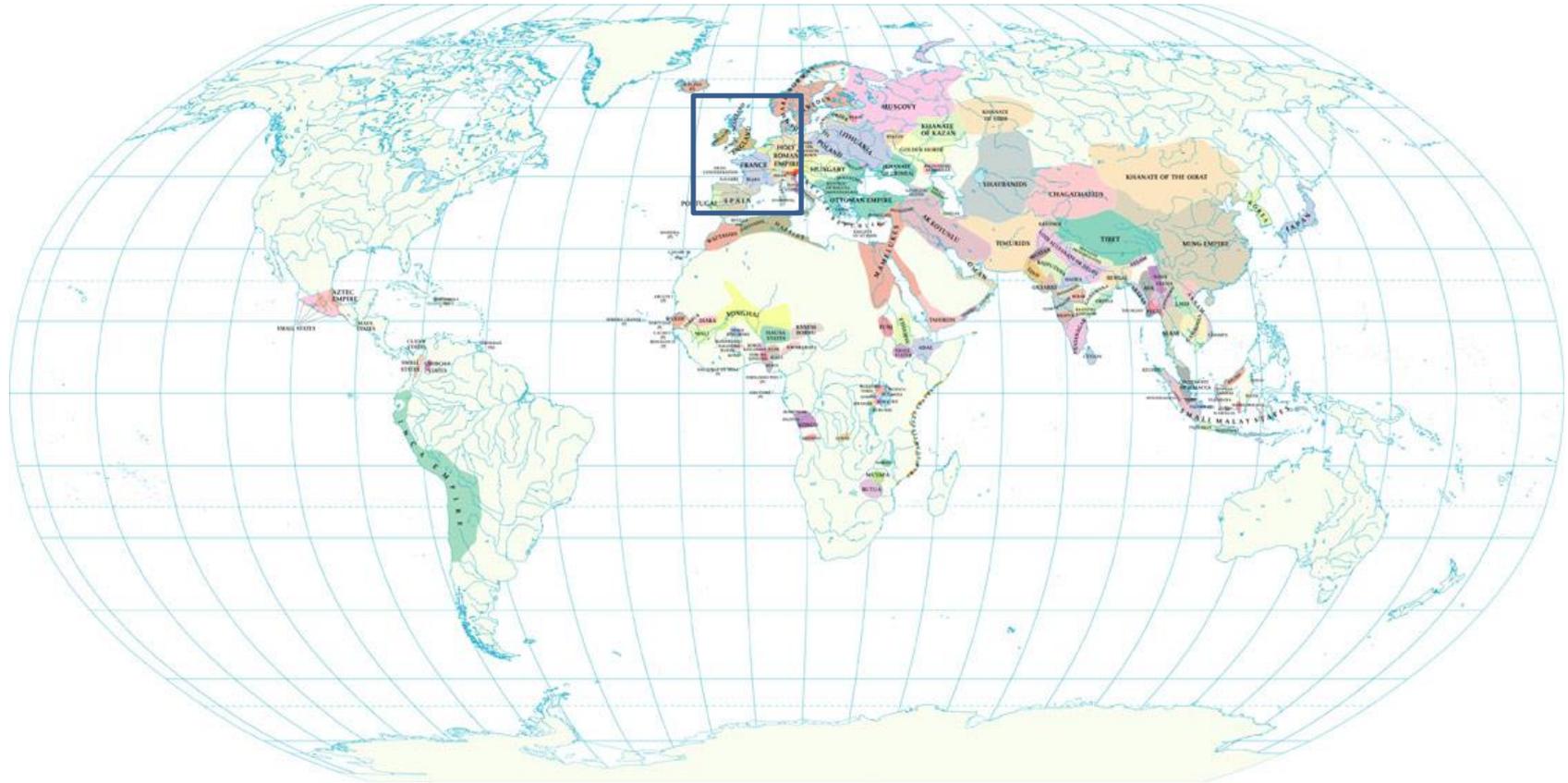
Disadv =



Cortez (1520s)  
+  
Native Mexicans  
+  
massive Disease  
(95% deathrate)  
=  
collapse



Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)



## Western Europe

poor, divided, at war constantly, illiterate, uneducated, rural  
superstitious, diseased, dirty, corrupt, violent