

7.67 Explain the roles of peoples in the Aztec and Incan societies, including class structures, family life, warfare, religious beliefs and practices, and slavery

Aztec

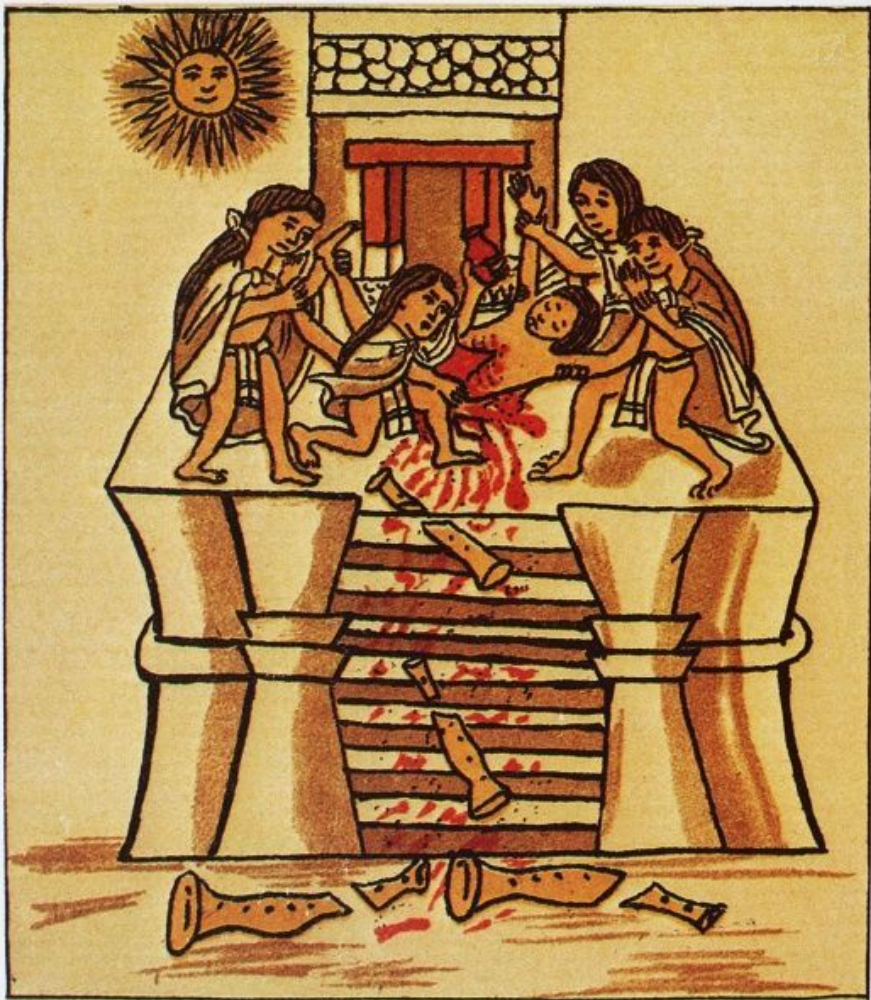
- Social structure
 - Emperor at very top
 - Nobles: government officials, generals, priests
 - Commoners: merchants, soldiers, land-owners
 - Enslaved persons

Aztec

- Worshiped almost 1,000 gods
 - Adopted gods from conquered peoples
 - Elaborate public ceremonies
 - Calendar was filled with religious festivals
- Most important was the Sun God, Huitzilopochtli
 - Believed they had to fight evil to raise the sun
 - Needed blood to fight

Aztec

- Sacrifices were given on huge scale
 - Priests carved the hearts out of the sacrifices
 - Usually enslaved persons, criminals, people offered as tribute by provinces
 - Prisoners of war were favorite victims; would often go to war to capture more sacrifices



Inca

- Only nobles from 11 families descended from the sun god could become king/emperor
- Social groups identified by distinct clothing
- Communities split into family groups headed by a chief
- Welfare state
 - All members of society had to pay tribute in form of labor
 - Extra food was stored and distributed in times of need

Inca

- Religion supported the state
- Fewer gods than other empires
- Young men and women were drafted for a lifetime of religious service
- Sacrifice of llamas and exchange of goods were part of religious practices
- Temple of the Sun in Cuzco was most sacred shrine
 - Decorated in gold (called “sweat of the sun”)
- Other famous site: Machu Picchu



