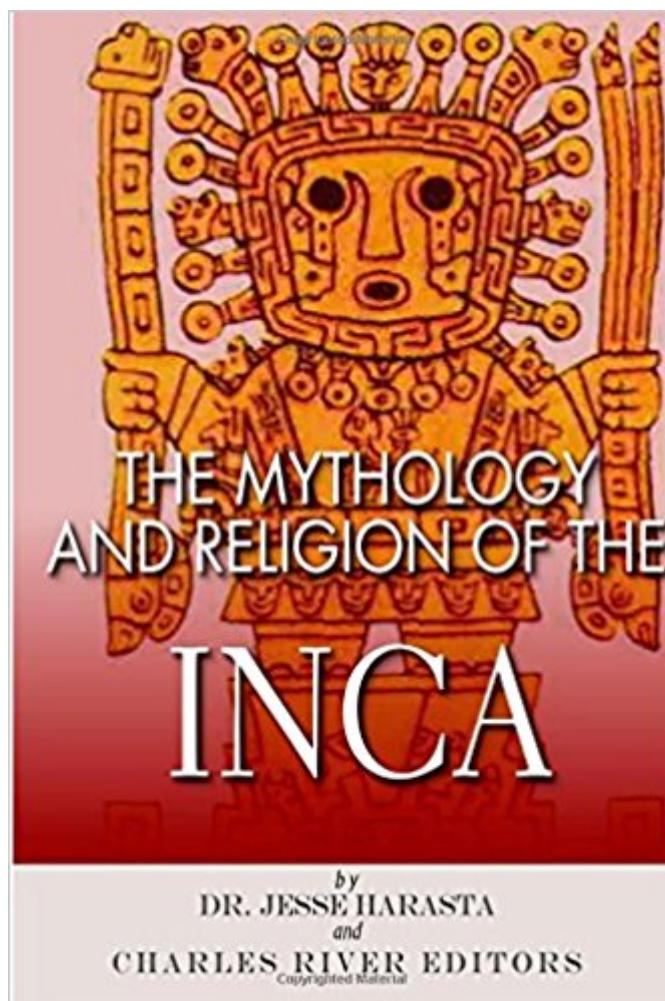


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The Mythology And Religion Of The Inca



Synopsis

*Includes pictures *Explains Inca mythology and religious practices, including human sacrifices
*Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading During the Age of Exploration, Native American tribes fell victim to European conquerors seeking legendary cities made of gold and other riches, attempts that were often being made in vain. And yet, of all the empires that were conquered across the continent, the one that continues to be most intimately associated with legends of gold and hidden riches is the Inca Empire. The Inca Empire, which flourished in modern day Peru and along the west coast of South America, was the largest Native American empire in pre-Columbian America until Pizarro and the Spanish conquistadors conquered them in the 16th century. What ultimately sealed their doom was the rumor that huge amounts of gold were available in regions south of the Andes Mountains. Though the Spanish physically conquered them in quick fashion, the culture and legacy of the Inca Empire has continued to endure throughout the centuries in both Europe and South America, due in no small part to the fact they were one of the most advanced and sophisticated cultures on the continent. Like the Aztecs, the Spanish burned much of the Incaâ™s extant writings, but it is estimated that as many as 35 million people once fell under their banner, and the empireâ™s administrative skills were so sharp that they kept accurate census records. Their religion, organization, and laws were also effectively centralized and tied to the rulers of the empire, and their military mobilization would have made the ancient Spartans proud. After the Spanish conquest, several rebellions in the area attempted to reestablish the proud Inca Empire over the next two centuries, all while famous Europeans like Voltaire glorified the Inca Empire in optimistic artistic portrayals. The Mythology and Religion of the Inca examines the history and legacy of the religion practiced by the famous Incan empire. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about the Incaâ™s religion and mythology like you never have before, in no time at all.

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (June 28, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1500335428

ISBN-13: 978-1500335427

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #981,721 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Incan #3378 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

Customer Reviews

Although there are a few typographical/grammar errors in this 56 page narrative of South America's premier pre-Columbian civilization, The Mythology and Religion of the Inca is a terrific, quick read. Illustrated with color photographs plus some black & white pics, this book will help enlighten readers as to how the Incan empire came to be so dominant and how they accommodated differing religious practices, while at the same time, used it to bring widely differing social groups within the same umbrella, as it were. Comparisons, for perspective, with the similar methods utilized by the Romans, Buddhists and other governing groups shines a light to illustrate the concept. This book also discusses, lightly, the severe, cruel, and objectionable tactics used by the Conquistadors to subjugate the Incas. Lest some suppose the conquest was proof as to the wrongs of religious followers of the Pope, a book authored by a Brother of the Dominican Order, Bartholome de las Casas, namely, A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies, sought to put an end to the savagery then being committed. The account is brief, but is not excerpted into this book, although it is referenced and paraphrased. I wish it had been reprinted in this book, as Bartholome was clearly passionate. Read this paragraph to get a glimpse of the copy I googled: I once saw four or five of their most powerful lords laid upon these griddles and roasted ... but the shrill cries which were heard were offensive to the commander because he was sleeping. He commanded that they be strangled with a halter, but the executioner (whose name and relatives in Seville are known to me) was loathe to cut his entertainment short, so he personally stuffed gags in their mouths to prevent others from hearing their cries until they died when they had been roasted as long as he thought convenient. I was an eyewitness to these and innumerable other cruelties; and because all men, who had the opportunity, fled to the mountains to avoid such brutish and barbarous people, estranged from goodness and adversaries of all mankind, they bred fierce hunting dogs that would devour a native like a hog, at first sight in less than a moment. If on the rare occasion a native, irritated upon a just account, took the life of any Spaniard, the Spanish proclaimed a law that one hundred natives should die for every individual Spaniard slain. I should note that I feel this account is important so North Americans can better understand just how much more brutal, even savage, the Conquistadors were to those indigenous people whom they encountered, than was/were the invaders of what we now call the United States of America. Doing so does not whitewash or

trivialize the destruction wrought by the US Army during the 19th Century. Despite the omission of Bartholome's brief account, I found a wealth of interesting information on the religious customs, and the history of the Inca, according to their own tradition, according to research conducted by scholars, and according to that which the Spaniards themselves observed. I only wish the conquistadors had not destroyed so much. I trust others will find The Mythology and Religion of the Inca as interesting as have I.

Short, basic and elementary - maybe good for high school students. A thumbnail scratch on a fingernail scratch of an incredibly rich and complicated theology and culture. Scratch something else that needs it, and save your money.

A book that should be read by all. It speaks of a highly cultured nation, well within the frame work of the Inca. It had well established social services, rules and regulation, tolerance towards others. Mind you if you challenge them that was a different story. A book well worth reading.

After seeing so many programs on the Discovery channels, it was good to have a reference book at hand. Complete bibliography doesn't hurt, either.

Excellent !!!

A good text with everything you could ask as far as Incan mythology goes (more aptly called Incan State Religion, as I learned). However, the text is complex and required a lot of double reading for me (though I am a lazy reader, so take that for what it's worth). If you're a history guru like me though, I recommend it.

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