

# CUSCO HISTORY



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### BACKGROUND

Cusco, Cuzco. Doesn't mean "navel of the world", but "placenta of the world,"<sup>7</sup> showing their arrogance. In the secret Inca language of Callaway it means "richest of the rich".<sup>NG Dec73</sup>

**FOUNDING.** [Ayars](#), ancestors of the Incas, emerged from the caves at [Pacarictambo](#) and wandered north looking for good land. 6. The first Inca, [Manco Capac](#), traveled here with his sister/wife Mama Ocllo from L Titicaca or the caves of [Pacaritambo](#). He sunk a staff into the ground to determine the best place to live. This happened at [Huanaypata](#) of Cuzco. The local tribe, [Sausera](#), was led by a strong chief, Copalimayta; he was defeated and fled. Manco Capac and Mama Huaco settled at Cuzco and took control of fields, houses, and people. Manco divided the city into 4 canchas or neighborhoods – Quinti, Chumbi, Sayri, Yarambuy.<sup>6</sup>

Cusco is part of a group of valleys – this the most defensible. Valley of [Anta](#) to N, [Xaxguana](#) – where the Pizarros and Almagros ruled, and valley of [Andahuaylillas](#). Wards of the city are organized and occupied by principal provinces.

**CONSTRUCTION.** The smaller buildings were painted yellow and red, the larger buildings were built with perfect immense stones. Elevation: 11,000ft. In a valley, tall mountains on 3 sides. SW stretches into fertile plains with bogs.<sup>9</sup>

Stone walls were sometimes stained. Streets and plaza paved with fine pebble.<sup>5</sup>

Built to dazzle and impress. Population:

40,000–100,000, unsure, very little excavations. City layout: 12 districts based on the provinces and tribes. Laborers and artisans lived in districts surrounding the ceremonial core. Stone models of the city have been found. [Hanan Cuzco](#) featured the [Chinchaysuyu](#) and [Antisuyu](#). [Hurin Cuzco](#) featured the [Cuntisuyu](#) and [Collasuyu](#).<sup>8</sup>

Buildings had steep roofs and had large courtyards "the size of city blocks." There were channels of water throughout the city and many fountains. A holy city in the center of the universe. No commerce or other typical city functions.<sup>2</sup>

**Cusco walls.** Most of the walls in Cusco are transitional work. The Spanish used in inca masons. Includes: [House of Serpents](#), [House of Valleumbroso](#), [House of Pumas](#), north side of [Hatun Rumiyoq St](#), east side of [Romeritos St](#). These fakes have stones of different colors, are not inclined inward, joints are located directly above another, height of stone courses is irregular, or has carved animals. Real Inca walls are at [Coricancha](#), and along the streets of [Ahuacpinta Herrajes](#), Q'aphchick'ijllu ([Pasaje Arequipa](#)), [St Catalina Angosta](#), and [Loreta](#). Only a few Inca doorways survive: [Coricancha](#) – interior courtyard on west side. [Romeritos 402](#) has the best exterior door and [Choquechaca 339](#).<sup>2</sup>

**WEATHER.** Wet season: Oct – Apr. Jan and Feb are the wettest. Dry season: May – Sep, busiest and end of June and July 28 – Aug 10.<sup>2</sup>



MANCO CAPAC I. VAUTIER



PACHACUTEC. VAUTIER



SACSAHUAMAN. D ROSCOE

## HISTORY

Archaeology is beginning to show that the Incas began consolidating power in the Cusco area in the 1100s as far away as 37mi. It was done peacefully. This contrasts the idea that EVERYTHING started with [Pachacutec](#).<sup>1,2</sup>

**1100.** City founded by [Manco Capac I](#), he ruled for 100 years.

**1440. PLAINS OF BLOOD.** [Chanca](#) attacked Cuzco under Hanco–Huallu with 8000 warriors. They were defeated on the Plain of Blood. They fled into the forests of Moyobamba (area of [Chachapoyas](#)) of the upper Marañon. For allowing their escape the Inca general, Capac Yupanqui was executed. [Sacsahuaman](#) was built and several out laying forts/cities.<sup>9</sup>

**1533, MAR–APR.** Martin Bueno and Pedro Martuide Moguer, illiterate soldiers and Juan Zarate, notary – traveled to Cuzco at [Atahualpa](#) and [Francisco Pizarro's](#) request to encourage the removal of gold. They arrived by litter and were attended to by an Incan noble. Atahualpa's premier General [Quisquis](#) had direct orders not to stop the Spaniards. He warned them to release Atahualpa upon payment or he would rescue him. The Spaniards went to the [Coricancha](#) and removed the 700 gold plates around its outside walls. The spaniards returned to Pizarro with 178 loads of gold.<sup>4</sup>

After murdering Atahualpa, Pizarro named [Huascar's](#) legitimate younger bother, [Toparca](#), Sapa Inca. But he died before Pizarro left Xauxa on his march to Cuzco.<sup>5</sup>

**1533 OCT. XAQUXAGUANA** – 5 leagues from Cuzco. Pizarro's and [Almagro's](#) forces unite. Pizarro remained for several days refreshing his troops. He put [Chullcuchima](#), Atahualpa's captured general to trial. He was blamed for the

insurgency and burned alive.<sup>5</sup>

[Manco Capac II](#) arrived with a large entourage to announce himself to Pizarro as the new Sapa Inca and asked for Spanish protection.<sup>5</sup>

**1533. [Hernado de Soto](#)** led a group ahead of Pizarro to Cuzco, repairing bridges as needed. He crossed the rivers [Abancaj](#) and [Apurimac](#) and drew near the sierra [Vilcaconga](#) – between Cuzco and Apurimac (several leagues). Here De Soto was seriously attacked in the passes. He was able to charge ahead to level ground;the Peruvians were most likely led by the great commander, Quizquiz. Both sides waited out the night. On hearing about resistences to De Soto, Pizarro sent the rest of his calvary, led by Almagro, who arrived that very night. On seeing that the Spanish number had grown, the Peruvians slipped away in the morning.<sup>5</sup>

**1533 NOV 14, 15.** 40 calvary led by [Juan Pizarro](#) and Hernando de Soto charged ahead to attack Quisquis at the outskirts of Cuzco. The area was flat and level. Quisquis' 30,000 troops had joined with another 30,000, but were still no match.<sup>4</sup>

**1533 NOV 15.** Pizarro enters Cuzco for the first time. Population: 20,000 + metro area (maybe exaggerated).<sup>5</sup> He enters with Manco to a heroes' welcome. Manco was from Cuzco and highly favored over the Quito Atahualpa and Quisquis.<sup>4</sup>

**1534 MAR.** Cuzco's loot distributed, less gold than at Cajamarca's ransom, but 4 times the silver. Almagro takes Manco's sister, Marachimbo. [Gonzalo Pizarro](#) takes Manco's wife/sister, [Cura Ocllo](#).<sup>4</sup>

**1535 NOV.** Manco calls a secret meeting to discuss rebellion. See [Inca Rulers](#) for more.<sup>4</sup>

**1536. EARLY FEB.** Manco torches city during seige. (Apr 10, von Hagen) Continued from

Battle of [Calca](#).<sup>5</sup> (May 6 MacQuarrie)

Juan Pizarro returns to Cuzco to find 200,000 Incas covering the hills. The Spanish had 200 troops. (196 Spanish, 100-200,000 Inca + several thousand [Canari](#) and [Chacapoyan](#).)<sup>4</sup> Manco besieged Cuzco in early Feb 1536. The roofs were made of thatch and easily ignited by hurled hot stones. Cuzco was built without stone gables. So the 'hip roofs' burned easily.<sup>3</sup> Inca warriors would run along the top of the walls attacking the Spanish, giving them a rare height advantage. See [Cathedral](#) for why it was one of the few buildings not to burn. At times the Spanish would charge out to attack, but suffered precious losses because of ambushes, bow, and sling.<sup>5</sup> Spanish also had 5000 Cañari. Spanish would cut the hands off their prisoners of war.<sup>9</sup>

Hernando decided that they must retake Sacsayhuaman. The Incas had begun using Spanish warfare against them: some swords, helmets, gunpowder, and horses. The siege was country wide.

**MAY 1536.** Manco restocked Sacsayhuaman with levied soldiers and laid siege to Cuzco. Led by chief priest, [Villac Umu](#). Juan Pizarro led 50 horsemen to recapture Sacs. Along [Jauja Rd](#), climbed [Carmena Hill](#) and continued on as if toward Lima but turned at village [Jicatica](#) and attacked Sacs over the hill N of Sacs.<sup>3</sup>

At night, Juan surprised the Incas and charged into Sacsayhuaman. Because of an injury to his jaw, Juan removed his helmet. On charge of a terrace on foot, he was smashed in the head by a slinging rock disabling him, he later died from his injuries.

Hernando charged back into Sacsayhuaman. One terrace quickly fell, but the other was dominated by a mighty Inca noble. He slayed those who suggested he retreat and personally rebuffed every Spaniard attempting to scale the walls. Hernando tried to capture him alive, but he threw himself off the wall because of his inability to protect the fortress.

5 months into the siege, Manco released the majority of his troops to go home and plant and then return. He stayed at [Ollantaytambo](#). (1537 Feb 16, 16 month siege - von Hagen)

Hernando staged a surprise attack on Ollantaytambo to capture Manco. They snuck close at night and were then surprised by Inca forces of missiles. Behind them the river was diverted and the ground flooded. Hernando was forced to retreat.

Almagro arrived from Chile to find the country under siege. Arriving with 500 men he arranged to meet Manco in [Yucay](#). The other half of the soldiers stayed in [Urcos](#). Untrusting of Almagro, the Incas quickly fell upon the Spaniards. But they were easily repulsed.



HERNANDO PIZARRO. HEMMING

**1537. APR 8.** Almagro betrayed a treaty with Hernando and marched upon Cuzco and took it easily. He imprisoned the Pizarro brothers. [Alvadro](#) had been sent with 500 men from Lima to help Hernando. He had his camp stationed in Xauxa. Almagro, now mayor of Cuzco sent messengers to Alvadro demanding his obedience. Alvadro imprisoned the messengers and Almagro prepared to march upon him. Alvadro moved to [Abancay](#). (Apr 18 – MacQuarrie)

**1537. JUL 12.** Pedro Lerma, a commander in Alvadro's small army betrayed him and allowed Almagro to easily cross the river at Abancay. Lerma joined Almagro in attacking Alvadro. Out numbered and unable to tell friend from foe, Alvadro was forced to surrender.

**1537.** Francisco received reinforcements and stores from Licentiate Gaspar de Espinosa in Panama and Cortez in Mexico. He started in reclaiming Cuzco when he heard of Alvadro's defeat and Almagro's growing power. He stayed in Lima and increased his defenses. [Espinosa](#) was sent as emissary to Cuzco. He was highly respected and the only man to negotiate between Francisco and Almagro. Espinosa suddenly died, rumored by poison.

**1537.** Almagro prepared to march on Lima, so he could establish contact with Spain. But first he sent [Orgoñez](#) in pursuit of Manco. With little support Manco was forced to flee [Ollantaytambo](#) into the depths of the [Vilcabamba](#).

**1537.** Almagro held Hernando as a prisoner and brought him to Lima and allowed an arbitrator to judge the border between Francisco and himself. It was decided that until Spain made a ruling, Cuzco would remain with Almagro and Hernando be set free and forced to return to Spain. But on Hernando's release, Francisco wanted Cuzco back

and asked Hernando to lead the forces to secure it.

**1538 MAY.** Almagro set up forces at [Las Salinas](#) and prepared to fight Hernando. Orgoñez fought incredibly, killing several knights, but a chain shot penetrated his visor and his horse was killed under him. Surrounded Orgonez requested that he turn his sword over, only to a knight. He turns it over to Fuentes, who then quickly stabs him with his dagger, cuts off his head, and pikes it in the Cuzco square as a traitor. Almagro watched the battle from afar. Seeing that they were losing he fled in retreat to Cuzco and Hernado quickly followed. Almagro was captured. The entire battle lasted 2 hours. The dead were left and were scavenged by the locals and left naked on the plain.

**1538 JUL 8.** Almagro was accused of treason and beheaded in [Cuzco's main square](#) at the age of 70 by Hernando, the same man he had shown mercy to and released a few months earlier. Pizarro is murdered in his home by followers of Almagro. His son became the new ruler of Peru. He was half Inca. But Spain declared [Vaca de Castro](#) the governor. Manco sent him his support in siezed armour and weapons and promised to join him in battle if needed.<sup>5</sup>

**1542.** [Diego Almagro](#) fled the battle with Vaca de Castro. He arrived in Cuzco and was arrested. He was beheaded for his rebellion in the same plaza as his father a few years prior.<sup>5</sup>

**1547 CUZCO.** [Gonzalo Pizarro](#), because of his full control of Peru and beyond, he openly resisted Spain's attempt to remove him. He sure handedly defeated a much larger contingent of [President Gasca](#) at Huarina. He then moved to secure Cuzco and prepared to face Gasca.

**1547. ANDAGUAYLAS.** Royalist president, Gasca, stopped here on his march to Cuzco to face Gonzalo Pizarro, who had put himself above the Spanish authority. The sicken troops recovered here and fed on Inca stores of maize that were still well stocked.<sup>5</sup>

**1547. COTAPAMPA.** President Gasca chose this spot to cross the Apurimac. Gonzalo had



RODRIGO OROÑEZ. HEMMING



VICEROY TOLEDO. HEMMING

destroyed all bridges. Gasca also ordered the preparation of building at 3 other locations, so as to divide Gonzalo's forces.<sup>5</sup>

**1550.** Start of Colonial phase. Conquistador phase over. Escuela Cuzquena, school of art flourished.<sup>9</sup>

**1560.** [Viceroy](#) has city roofs tiled to avoid fire hazard.

**1572 SEP 21.** [Arbieto](#) returns to Cuzco with [Tupac Amaru](#).<sup>4</sup>

**1572 SEP 24.** Tupac Amaru is led to the main square for his execution. The entire city and hillsides were full with people to see the last Inca. A great wail rose among the crowd. Tupac raised his hand then lowered it – all become silent.<sup>4</sup>

**1707.** Jesuits are expelled from Peru. Leaving La Universidad de Cuzco to be used as soldier barracks.<sup>9</sup>

**1820S.** Cusco held by royalists vs Gen [San Martin](#). Finished in Ayacucho in 1824.<sup>9</sup>

**1825.** [Simon Bolivar](#) entered Cuzco and made La Universidad de Cuzco a School of Science and headquarters.<sup>9</sup>

## OTHER MAPS INCLUDE:

[Cusco Guide](#) – capital of the Incas.

[Coricancha](#) – sun temple in Cusco.

[Sacsahuaman](#) – fortress near Cusco.

## OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

[Glossary of quechua](#)

[Inca rulers](#), [Historic names](#)

[Religion](#), [Tribes](#)

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See [Full Bibliography](#) at website.

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