Cusco, Cuzco, Qosqo. Doesn’t mean “navel of the world”, but “placenta of the world,” showing their arrogance. In the secret Inca language of Callawaya it means “richest of the rich”.

**FOUNDING.** Ayars, ancestors of the Incas, emerged from the caves at Pacarictambo and wandered north looking for good land. 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 soil and place to live. This happened at Huanaypata of Cuzco. The local tribe, Sauseray, 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 four canchas or neighborhoods: Quinti, Chumbi, Sayri, Yarambuy. 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. The SW stretches into fertile plains with bogs. Stone stretches into fertile plains with bogs.

Stone walls were sometimes stained. Streets and plaza paved with fine pebble.

Built to dazzle and impress. Population: 40,000–100,000, unsure, very little excavations.

**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.
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. ¹, ²

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. Viracocha Inca and his eldest sons fled. Pachacutec stayed to defend Cusco. Pururauças, stones that rose up to fight with Pachacutec. The Chancas were defeated on the Plain of Blood and fled into the forests of Moyobamba (area of Chachapoyas) of the upper Maranon. For allowing their escape the Inca general, Capac Yupanqui was executed. Pachacutec and the following generations began expanding the Inca empire exponentially. Sacsahuaman was built and several out laying forts/cities.⁹

1533, OCT. XAQUIXAGUANA, 5 leagues from Cuzco. Pizarro’s and Almagro’s forces unite. Pizarro remained for several days refreshing his troops. He put Challcuchima, Atahualpa’s captured general to trial. He was blamed for the insurgency and burned alive.⁵ Manco Capac II arrived with a large entourage to announce himself to Pizarro as the new Sapa Inca and asked for Spanish protection.⁵

1533. Hernando de Soto led a group ahead of Pizarro to Cuzco, repairing bridges as needed. He crossed the rivers Abancay and Apurimac and drew near the sierra Villaconga, between Cuzco and Apurimac. 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 night. On seeing that the Spanish number had grown, the Peruvians slipped away in the morning.⁵

1533, MAR–APR. Martin Bueno and Pedro Martuilde 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 Spanairds. He warned them to release Atahualpa upon payment or he would rescue him. The Spanairds went to the Coricancha and removed the 700 gold plates around its outside walls. The spanairds returned to Pizarro with 178 loads of gold.⁴

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.⁵
1535 Nov. Manco calls a secret meeting to discuss rebellion. See Inca Rulers for more.4

1536 Early Feb. Manco torches city during siege. (Apr 10, von Hagen) Continued from Battle of Calca.5 (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 incan + several thousand Canari and Chachapoyan.4) 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.3 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.5 Spanish also had 5000 Cañari. Spanish would cut the hands off their prisoners of war.9

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.

1536 May. Manco restocked Sacsahuaman. with levied soldiers and layed siege to Cuzco. Led by chief priest, Villac Umu. Juan Pizarro led 50 horsemen and layed siege to Cuzco. Along Jauja Rd, climbed Carmenca Hill and continued on as if toward Lima but turned at village Jicatica and attacked Sacs over the hill N of Sacs.3 At night, Juan surprised the Incas and charged into Sacsahuaman. 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 slinged rock disabling him, he later died from his injuries.

Hernando charged back into Sacsahuaman. 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 Spanaird 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.

Five months into the siege, Manco released the majority of his troops to go home and plant and then return. He stayed at Ollantaytambo to capture Manco. They snuck close at night and were then surprised by Inca forces with missles of stones and arrows. 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.

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

1537 Jul 12. Pedro Lerma, a commander in Alavdro’s small army betrayed him and allowed Almagro to easily cross the river at Abancay. Lerma joined Almagro in attacking Alavdro. Out numbered and unable to tell friend from foe, Alavdro 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 Alavdro’s defeat and Almagro’s growing power. He stayed in Lima and increased his defenses. Espinosa was sent as emassary 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 Orgonez 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, but 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 govenor. Manco sent him his support in siezed armour and weapons and promised to join him in battle if needed.5

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.5

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.6

1547. COTAPAMPA. President Gasca chose this spot to cross the Apurimac. Gonzalo had destroyed all bridges. Gasca also ordered the preparation of building at 3 other locations, so as to divide Gonzalez’s forces.5

1550. Start of Colonial phase. Conquistador phase over. Escuela Cuzquena, shool of art flourished.9

1560. Viceroy has city roofs tiled to avoid fire hazard.

1572 SEP 21. Arbieto returns to Cuzco with Tupac Amaru from Vilcabamba.4

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.4

1707. Jesuits are expelled from Peru. Leaving La Universidad de Cuzco to be used as soldier barracks.9

1820S. Cusco held by royalists vs Gen San Martin. Finished in Ayacucho in 1824.9

1825. Simon Bolivar entered Cuzco and made La Universidad de Cuzco a School of Science and headquarters.9

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