Study questions

“The Inca Conquest of the Andes” Lecture O’Toole 1a

These discussion questions are organized by the following three themes (bolded below): the Inca rule of their empire, how Garcilaso de la Vega constructed a vision of this empire, and how the Inca dealt with the colonial politics once conquered.

1. As you listen or read the British Museum episode on the Inca gold llama, what were the benefits of the llama to building an empire in the Andes of South America? And, as you read the chapters from Garcilaso de la Vega’s chronicle, how did the Inca build and **rule their empire**?
2. Compare the quote included in the British Museum episode from Garcilaso de la Vega to the chapters provided from his chronicle. (Here’s the quote: "Inca tyranny is at our gate . . . If we yield to the Inca, we shall be obliged to give up our former freedom, our best land, our most beautiful women and girls, our customs, our laws . . . We shall become for all time this tyrant's vassals and servitors."(Garcilasco de la Vega) As you read the chapters, how did Garcilaso de la Vega **construct** the Inca empire? What type of language, rhetoric, and imagery does he employ to describe the Inca? Is Garcilaso de la Vega defending, or justifying, or promoting the Inca empire? Why? Does Garcilaso de la Vega, when he is writing in the mid-sixteenth century after the Spanish military conquest of the Inca empire, think that the Inca state or empire has disappeared?
3. What does Garcilaso de la Vega claim is the purpose of his text, or chronicle? What do you observe is his purpose? What is Garcilaso de la Vega’s argument regarding the Spanish empire, or Spanish rule, as he relates a history of the Inca empire? How was the Spanish conquest understood and depicted by Garcilaso de la Vega? How is Garcilaso de la Vega positioning himself (and other Inca nobles like himself) within the Spanish empire? Based on the tensions in the chronicle chapters, what can you imagine were the **colonial politic**s, or the challenges facing an Inca descendant, such as Garcilaso de la Vega?

Want to know more about the Inca and Garcilaso de la Vega? Here’s where I go:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Inca>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Garcilaso-de-la-Vega-Spanish-chronicler>