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Social Studies 1

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Research question: Which society was better, the Inca or the Aztecs?

Thesis: The Incans had the most advanced civilization of pre-Columbian Meso-America due to their progressive social welfare system and infrastructure that connected the empire physically and culturally.

The social welfare system of the Incans was important supplied the government with the tools it need to care for its people. They developed mita which “was a compulsory rotational labor draft system” that increased productivity (Rodriguez). Having guaranteed workers allowed the government to produce the supplies it needed to care for its people. When the government had everything it needed it could function smoothly. In exchange for their work “the people received the right to work their lands, and in the times of shortage or drought, imperial store houses provided grain and cloth” so they didn’t die (Rodriguez). The people were rewarded for their work as mita with security. When laborers feel they are being rewarded for their work they work better and more efficiently which helped make the empire wealthy. The main responsibility of the ayllu “was to organize labor for activities related to agriculture such as clearing and preparing fields, irrigation canals, and pasture land” (Malpass). The ayllus performed the mita tasks which consisted mainly of manual labor. They helped organize the workers which caused work to be more efficient in turn bettering the conditions in their society.

II. An extensive network of roads connected the Inca empire.

A. In high rain or snowfall regions, they were paved with cobbles or flagstones. (“Inca Roads”)

1. The Inca made roads that were tolerant to the conditions they were made in, so they would last.

2. Roads that are built well allow for faster movement through the empire.

B. Their total length has been estimated at 25,000 miles, comparable to the communication infrastructure of the Roman Empire and achieved without the advantage of the wheel or large draft animal. (“Inca Roads”)

1. All parts of the empire were connected.

2. When an empire is well connected ideas and goods travel more freely and have maximum impact.

C. Ayllu were important foci of ritual activities, integrating the members through shared beliefs and ceremonies, often based on a common ancestor. (Malpass)

1. The ayllu would have used the roads to come together for various ritual and activities.

2. When connected members of the ayllu could feel more connected and content with their lives.

Thesis Restatement:

Works Cited

"Inca Roads." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*, ABC-CLIO, 2018, ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/601348. Accessed 13 Feb. 2018.

Malpass, Michael A. "Social Organization in the Inca Empire." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*, ABC-CLIO, 2018, ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/1731860. Accessed 14 Feb. 2018.

Rodriguez, Junius. "Mita." *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*, ABC-CLIO, 2018, ancienthistory.abc-clio.com/Search/Display/601350. Accessed 14 Feb. 2018.