



## 5 - THE CIVIL WAR

After the death of **Huayna Capac** and his son **Ninan Cuyuchi** in 1525, another son, **Huascar**, was proclaimed Sapa Inca at Cusco. However, another **panaqa** - a different branch of the royal family - had other ideas. **Atahualpa** had been with his father, with the main Inca army, in the north. Atahualpa's followers claimed that his half-brother **Huascar** was not the 'official' Sapa Inca. They pointed out the proper religious ceremonies had not been performed by the High Priest.

Huascar, who ruled from Cusco from 1525-1532, treated Atahualpa and his followers with contempt. Huascar used his immense power to take away some of the wealth of the panaqas for himself. This lost him many friends.

Meanwhile the northern province of **Quito** became Atahualpa's base, almost an independent kingdom. But Atahualpa wanted to be Sapa Inca.

Different Inca armies chose sides, and Huascar and Atahualpa fought an increasingly bitter civil war to decide who would control Tawantinsuyu.

Huascar had the bigger armies. But Atahualpa had the more experienced generals and soldiers. Huascar failed to gain the respect of his nobles, including his own generals. One by one Huascar's armies were defeated by Atahualpa, before Huascar finally led out an army himself.

Huascar was defeated and captured in 1532.

By now the hatred between the two sides ran very deep. Huascar was made to watch hundreds of members of his family being

butchered in front of him on the orders of Atahualpa's generals. His **Quipucamarocs**, who remembered and recited Inca History from the point of view of Huascar's family, were also killed.

