

2 - THE CONQUESTS OF PACHACUTI 'EARTHSHAKER'

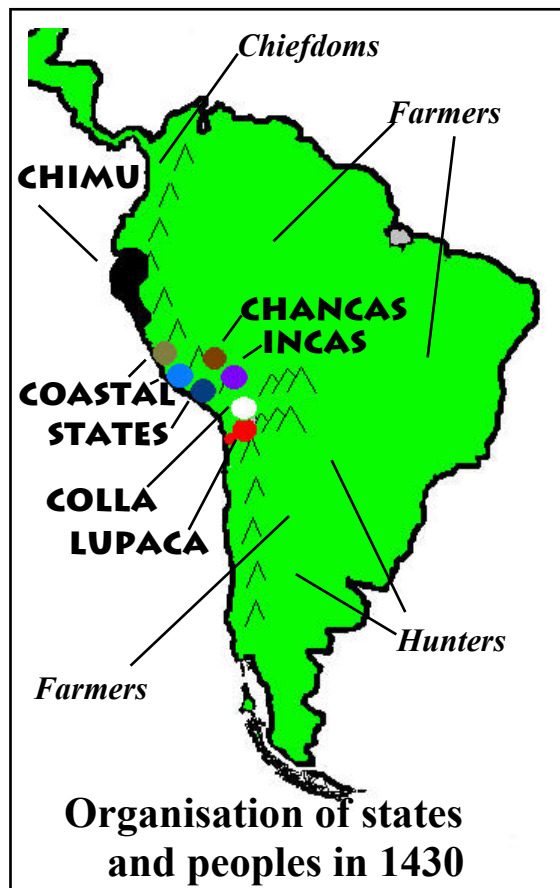
Before 1438 the Andes had been occupied by a hundred or so larger tribal groups, and thousands of smaller ones. The kingdoms, chiefdoms, tribes and lordships of the Andes had many different languages and customs. Tribes sometimes traded with one another, but often they fought for scarce land and resources. From the reign of Pachacuti all this changed. Thousands of different peoples became one - 'The Land of Four Quarters', Tawantinsuyu. In theory, and sometimes in practice, the entire Andes was at peace.

Pachacuti 'Earthshaker' began this change partly through defeating other tribes and partly through talking to them. He made special **Give-and-Take** agreements with neighbouring tribes, using age-old Andean customs. 'Give-and-Take' meant that the Incas exchanged gifts with another tribe, in the same

way that Andean villages had already done over hundreds of years.

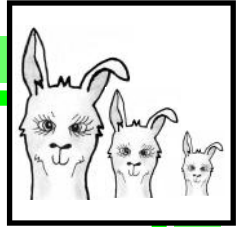
Pachacuti would then *ask* the neighbouring tribe to provide him with troops or labourers, in return for the gifts he had given. Overall, although both sides in the agreement did both giving and taking, in practice the Incas did most of the taking!

Even so, when the Incas later became more powerful, they still had to *request* help in this way, and if the custom was forgotten it could cause trouble. But it was an effective way of raising very large armies. As the Incas conquered more tribes, they gained more and more goods, which in turn allowed them to have even larger armies.



The first important group the Incas conquered were the Chancas. By using the wealth gained in this victory, the Incas were able to start out on their programme of conquest.

The conquests of Pachacuti 'Earthshaker'



The Chancas were the first major tribe to come under Inca control. It happened gradually. Pachacuti defeated them in battle on several occasions. At one point the two tribes agreed not to attack one another, leaving them both free to gain more territory. There was then something like a competition between the two tribes to see who could conquer the most land.

which the Chancas became the junior partners.

With the resources of these two 'super-tribes' Pachacuti was able to send Capac Yupanqui on a joint Inca-Chanca expedition to the north. He had orders not to go too far north. Pachacuti probably did not want him to stir up the powerful northern kingdom of **Chimu**.

The Chancas' army moved south, conquering the Colla people in the area of Lake Titicaca. Pachacuti and the Incas marched west through **Quechua** territory to conquer the **Vilcas** and the **Sora** tribes. Pachacuti then sent his brother **Capac Yupanqui**

southwards. He reached as far as the Pacific Ocean, and on his return journey to Cusco even captured a few Chanca villages.

Somehow, through threats, bribes and military pressure, the Chancas were forced into a 'Give-and-take' agreement with the Incas, under

It turned out that the Chancas did

most of the fighting. This made the Incas look foolish. Pachacuti became worried that the Chanca army would attack their Inca allies. He sent an order to Capac Yupanqui to kill the Chanca leaders.

Warned of this, the Chanca army fled further to the north east into

the rainforest. Capac Yupanqui tried to follow them, but eventually gave up.

But Capac Yupanqui had now broken Pachacuti's orders not to go too far north. He captured the city of **Cajamarca**, even though the city was an **ally** of Chimú, and he left an Inca **garrison** there before starting the long return journey to Cusco.

