

# Pre-Inca History

# Overview

# Edward P. Lanning, archaeologist, “Peru Before the Incas” 1967

Period	Dates	Cultures
<b>Ceramic</b>		
Late Horizon	1476 CE - 1534 CE	<a href="#">Inca</a>
Late Intermediate	1000 CE - 1476 CE	<a href="#">Chimú</a> , <a href="#">Chincha</a> , <a href="#">Cajamarca</a> , <a href="#">Piura</a> , <a href="#">Chancay</a> , <a href="#">Chachapoyas</a> , <a href="#">Chincha</a> , <a href="#">Chiribaya</a> , <a href="#">Chucuito</a> , <a href="#">Huaman Huilca</a> , <a href="#">Ilo</a> , <a href="#">Qotu Qotu</a> , <a href="#">Pacacocho</a> , <a href="#">Palli</a> , <a href="#">Marca</a> , <a href="#">Piura</a> , <a href="#">Sican</a> , <a href="#">Tajaraca</a> , <a href="#">Huaylas</a> , <a href="#">Conchucos</a> , <a href="#">Huamachuco</a> , <a href="#">Rucanas</a> , <a href="#">Chanka</a> , <a href="#">Aymara nations</a> , <a href="#">Ayabaca</a> , <a href="#">Bracamoros</a> , <a href="#">Huancabambas</a> , <a href="#">Tallan culture</a> , <a href="#">Huarco</a> , <a href="#">Ichma</a> , <a href="#">Parinacota</a> , <a href="#">Cuntis</a> , <a href="#">Chinchaycochas</a> , <a href="#">Huarochiri</a> , <a href="#">Kheswas</a> , <a href="#">Tarmas</a> , <a href="#">Paltas</a> , <a href="#">Camanas</a>
Middle Horizon	600 CE - 1000 CE	<a href="#">Huari</a> , <a href="#">Tiwanaku</a> , <a href="#">Piura</a>
Early Intermediate	200 CE - 600 CE	<a href="#">Moche</a> , <a href="#">Nazca</a> , <a href="#">Lima</a> , <a href="#">Tiwanaku</a> , <a href="#">Pichiche</a> , <a href="#">Piura</a>
Early Horizon	900 BCE - 200 CE	<a href="#">Chavín</a> , <a href="#">Cupisnique</a> , <a href="#">Late Chiripa</a> , <a href="#">Paracas</a> , <a href="#">Pichiche</a> , <a href="#">Sechura</a>
Initial Period	1800/1500 BCE - 900 BCE	<a href="#">Early Chiripa</a> , <a href="#">Kotosh</a> , <a href="#">Toril</a> (The <a href="#">Cumbe Mayo aqueduct</a> was built c. 1000 BCE.)
<b>Preceramic</b>		
Period VI	2500 BCE - 1500/1800 BCE	<a href="#">Norte Chico</a> (Caral), <a href="#">Casavilca</a> , <a href="#">Culebras</a> , <a href="#">Viscachani</a> , <a href="#">Huaca Prieta</a>
Period V	4200 BCE - 2500 BCE	<a href="#">Honda</a> , <a href="#">Lauricocha III</a> , <a href="#">Viscachani</a> ,
Period IV	6000 BCE - 4200 BCE	<a href="#">Ambo</a> , Canario, <a href="#">Siches</a> , <a href="#">Lauricocha II</a> , <a href="#">Luz</a> , <a href="#">Toquepala II</a>
Period III	8000 BCE - 6000 BCE	<a href="#">Arenal</a> , <a href="#">Chivateros II</a> , <a href="#">Lauricocha I</a> , <a href="#">Playa Chira</a> , <a href="#">Puyenca</a> , <a href="#">Toquepala I</a>
Period II	9500 BCE - 8000 BCE	<a href="#">Chivateros I</a> , <a href="#">Lauricocha I</a>
Period I	? BCE - 9500 BCE	<a href="#">Oquendo</a> , Red Zone (central coast)

- Timeline punctuated by severe droughts and thus food supply
- Connections between different cultures unclear; some connections drawn through “archaeological horizons,” widespread artifact styles
- Cultures often just named for the archaeological sites they were found in

# First evidence of occupation

- Hypothesized that humans entered the Americas by crossing the land bridge from Asia (Bering Strait)
- Likely became sedentary around 7000 BCE

# First evidence of occupation



- Pukimachay or “flea cave”
- Ayacucho Valley in the central highlands
- Consisted of multiple levels, the lowest called Apaccaicasa
- Radiocarbon dating implied ~22,000 BCE but others argue 12,000 or 17,000 BCE
- Earliest evidence of human occupation in South America; led some to believe that North America was occupied sooner than originally thought

# First evidence of settlement

- “Oldest urban center” *originally* thought to be the Sacred City of Caral-Supe, in the Supe Valley 200 miles north of Lima
- Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Site of Norte Chico/Caral civilization
- Inhabited ~2600-2000 BCE, 150 acres
- Complex of temples, amphitheaters, houses, plazas, pyramids
- Believed to be model of urban design for next 4 millenia
- Notably: drug use, no warfare, quipu piece



# First evidence of settlement

- More recently found a circular plaza (2008) under the Sechin Bajo complex of ruins
- Made of rock and adobe, 33 to 39 feet across
- Carbon dating ~3500 BCE, older than Great Pyramid of Giza
- Now supposedly the oldest human construction in all of Americas

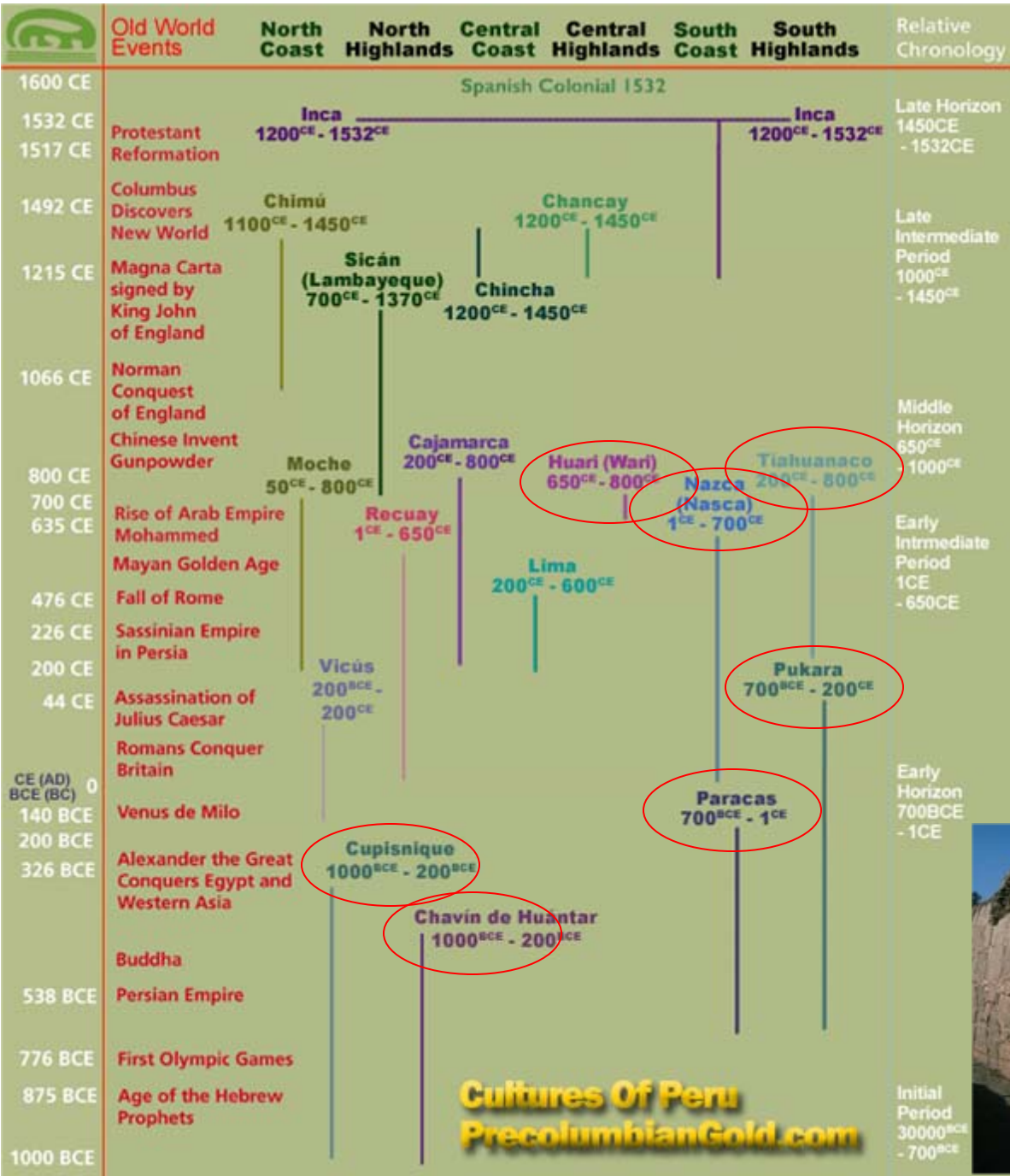


What happened afterwards?



# Norte Chico

- 30 major population centers, including the Sacred City of Caral-Supe
- 'Norte Chico region' 150-200 km north of Lima, over 50 rivers carrying Andean snowmelt led to irrigation and likely emergence
- 3000 to 1800 BCE; oldest known civilization in the Americas
- Preceramic culture, no art, but monumental architecture, textiles, irrigation, and supposedly sophisticated government (theocratic with centralized control)
- No warfare or 'defensive construction' and remarkably dense sites
- Evidence of invention of human government?
- Anchovies as food source: link to coastal sites?
- Huge academic controversy: Shady VS. Haas & Creamer

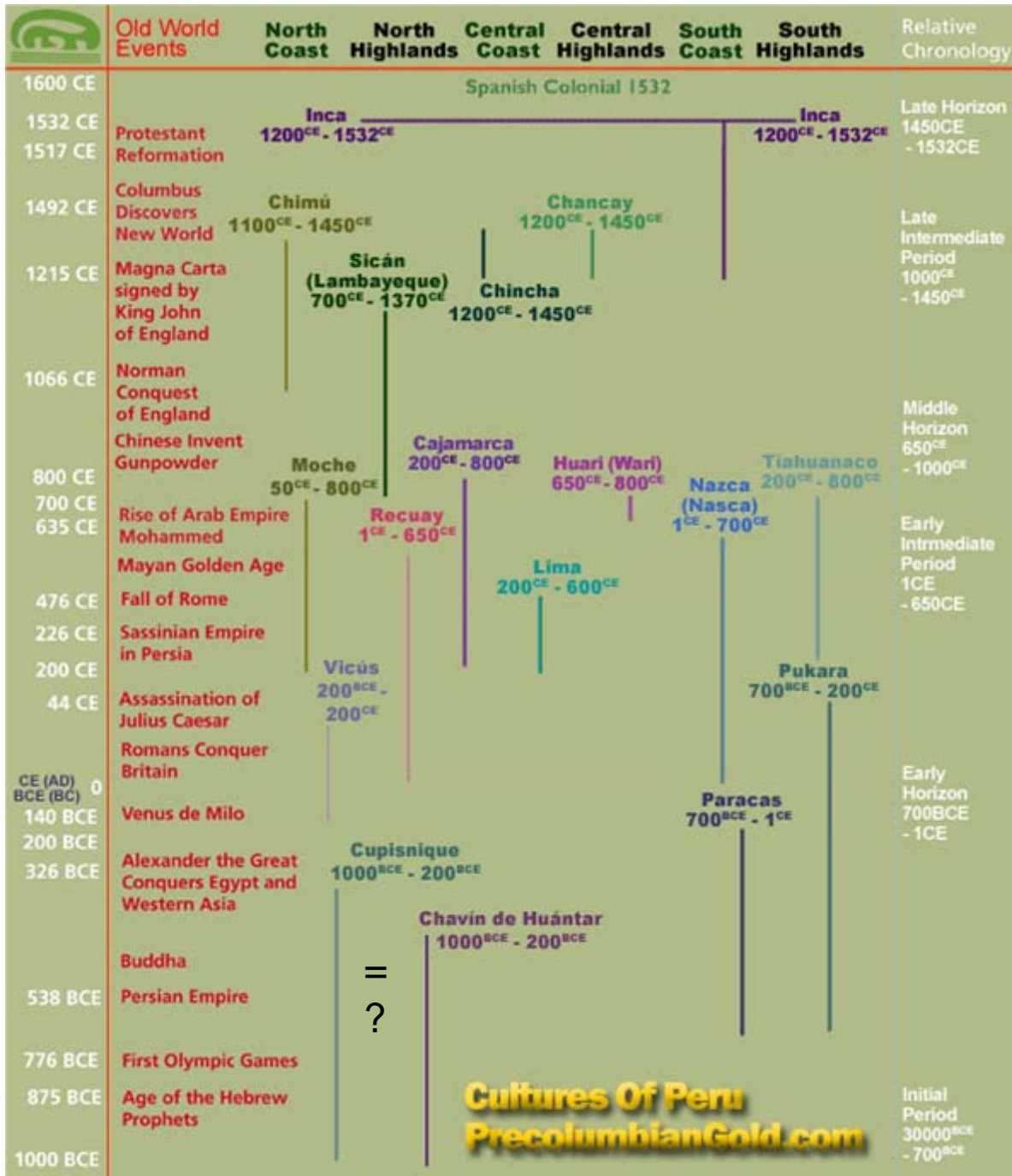


Chavin culture ~900 BCE is still commonly presented as the first civilization of the area/earliest central state, despite being predated by the Norte Chico and Sechin (1800-900 BCE; not shown)

Focus on South, but interrelated

Sechin complex wall



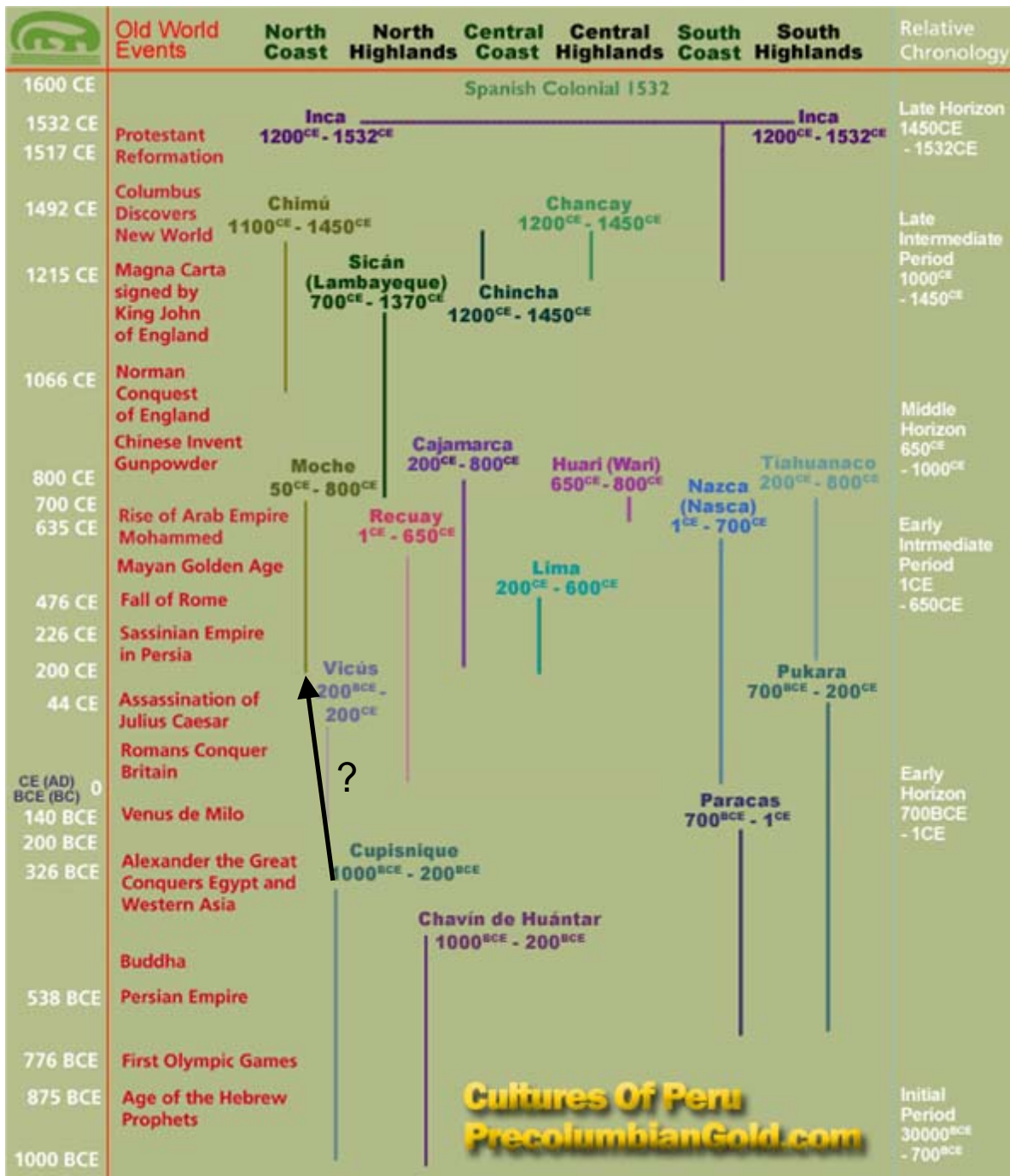


For example:

Cupisnique had distinctive clay architecture

Unclear whether Cupisnique and Chavin are one and the same – shared artistic styles and religious symbols

Names sometimes used interchangeably; similar dates



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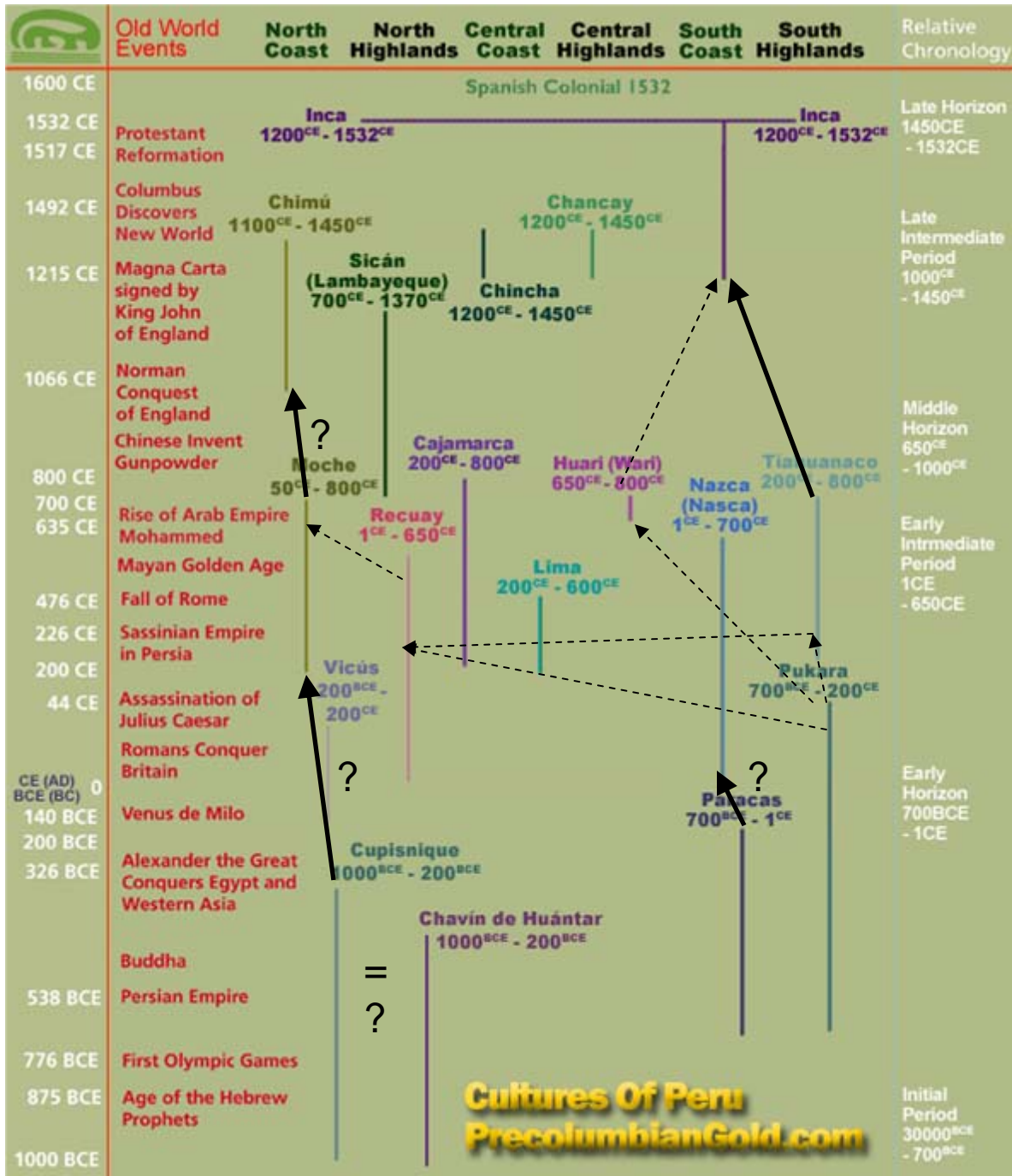
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Ancestor of Moche culture?





The hypothesis:  
Weather and thus food supply controlled duration.

After the first cultures ended around 0 BCE, many localized cultures sprang up everywhere.

Around 1000 AD, Tiwanaku-Wari fragmented into numerous ethnic based-groups.

# Chavín



- 900 – 200 BCE
- Chavín de Huantar, UNESCO World Heritage site in the Ancash highlands
- Power based on theocracy
- Religious temple seen as center of the world, built with white granite and black limestone
- Stylized religious icons with feline theme, esp the jaguar
- Drainage system for the temple
- Ceremonies, elite, shamans, use of drugs (hallucinogenic San Pedro cactus)
- First artistic style/horizon in the Andes

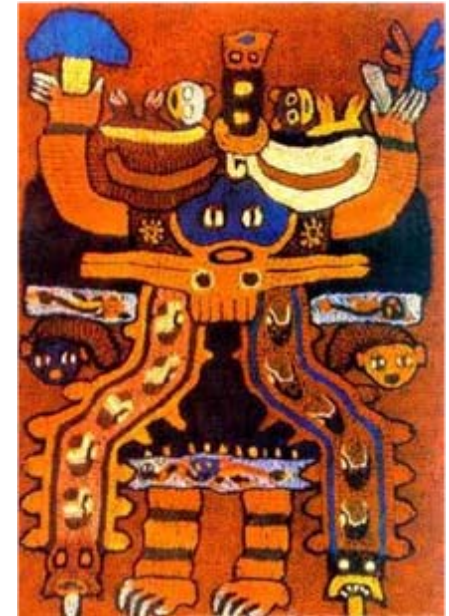
# Chavín





# Paracas

- 600 – 200 BCE
- Wari Kayan necropolis
- Famous for fine textiles in wool and cotton
- Practiced skull deformation
- Vicuña fibers





# Paracas





Old World Events

North Coast

North Highlands

Central Coast

Central Highlands

South Coast

South Highlands

Relative Chronology

1600 CE

Spanish Colonial 1532

1532 CE

1517 CE

Protestant Reformation

Inca 1200<sup>CE</sup> - 1532<sup>CE</sup>

Inca 1200<sup>CE</sup> - 1532<sup>CE</sup>

Late Horizon 1450<sup>CE</sup> - 1532<sup>CE</sup>

1492 CE

Columbus Discovers New World

Chimú 1100<sup>CE</sup> - 1450<sup>CE</sup>

Chancay 1200<sup>CE</sup> - 1450<sup>CE</sup>

Late Intermediate Period 1000<sup>CE</sup> - 1450<sup>CE</sup>

1215 CE

Magna Carta signed by King John of England

Sicán (Lambayeque) 700<sup>CE</sup> - 1370<sup>CE</sup>

Chincha 1200<sup>CE</sup> - 1450<sup>CE</sup>

1066 CE

Norman Conquest of England

Cajamarca 200<sup>CE</sup> - 800<sup>CE</sup>

Huari (Wari) 650<sup>CE</sup> - 800<sup>CE</sup>

Nazca (Nasca) 1<sup>CE</sup> - 700<sup>CE</sup>

Middle Horizon 650<sup>CE</sup> - 1000<sup>CE</sup>

800 CE

Rise of Arab Empire

Mocho 50<sup>CE</sup> - 800<sup>CE</sup>

Recuay 1<sup>CE</sup> - 650<sup>CE</sup>

Lima 200<sup>CE</sup> - 600<sup>CE</sup>

Tiauanaco 200<sup>CE</sup> - 800<sup>CE</sup>

Early Intermediate Period 1<sup>CE</sup> - 650<sup>CE</sup>

700 CE

635 CE

Mayan Golden Age

Fall of Rome

476 CE

226 CE

Sassanian Empire in Persia

Vicus 200<sup>BCE</sup> - 200<sup>CE</sup>

Lima 200<sup>CE</sup> - 600<sup>CE</sup>

Rukara 700<sup>BCE</sup> - 200<sup>CE</sup>

Early Horizon 700<sup>BCE</sup> - 1<sup>CE</sup>

200 CE

44 CE

Assassination of Julius Caesar

Romans Conquer Britain

0

140 BCE

Venus de Milo

200 BCE

326 BCE

Alexander the Great Conquers Egypt and Western Asia

Cupisnique 1000<sup>BCE</sup> - 200<sup>BCE</sup>

Chavin de Huántar 1000<sup>BCE</sup> - 200<sup>BCE</sup>

Buddha

538 BCE

Persian Empire

776 BCE

First Olympic Games

875 BCE

Age of the Hebrew Prophets

1000 BCE

Initial Period 3000<sup>BCE</sup> - 700<sup>BCE</sup>

Cultures Of Peru  
PrecolumbianGold.com

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# Nazca

- 100 – 800 AD
- Heavily influenced by Paracas
- Ceramics, textiles, geoglyphs (Nazca lines) and underground aqueducts
- Nature gods, drugs, trephination
- Center of Cahuachi
- Trophy heads?





# Nazca



# Nazca



# Pukara

- From Quechua “fortress” (could refer to any fortress)
- Likely foundation of Tiwanaku and Wari
- Northwest of Lake Titicaca
- Ceramics, textiles, stone work



# Pukara



# Wari/Huari

- 500 - 900 AD
- Coexisted with Tiwanaku
- Administrative centers and architecture distinct from Tiwanaku, but both have similar iconography (curvilinear vs rectilinear) like earlier Pukara culture
- No written records, famous for terracing, road networks later seen with Incas





# Tiwanaku



Gateway of the Sun depicting Viracocha, god of action



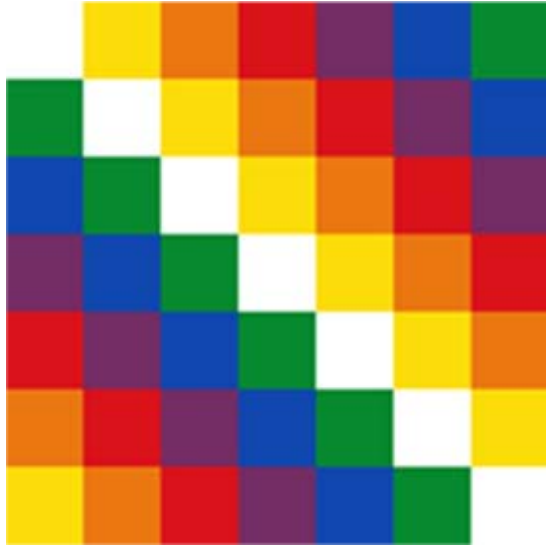
- Possibly Aymara *taypiqala* or “stone in the center”
- 500 – 1000 AD
- “One of the most important precursors” to the Incas
- No written language
- Around 400 AD became predatory state, expanding through politics and religion
- Statues taken from other cultures and brought back
- Absorbed other cultures
- Famous for stone architecture – red sandstone and green andesite from far away
- Now almost all reconstruction (poorer quality)

# Tiwanaku



UNESCO World Heritage site

# Aymara (ethnic group)



Wiphala, the Aymara flag

- Andes and altiplano regions throughout South America
- Language likely originated in central Peru, spread to Bolivia
- Became subjects of the Incas (Incas originally Aymara-speakers?)
- The Spanish grouped many different ethnic groups under the name Aymara: possible confusion
- Supposedly descendants of Tiwanaku? Wari? Precursors of Incas?
- At least 7 ancient Aymara kingdoms, incl. Lupaqa near Lake Titicaca
- Sun god Inti and earth goddess Pachamama
- Use of coca plant

# Aymara (ethnic group)

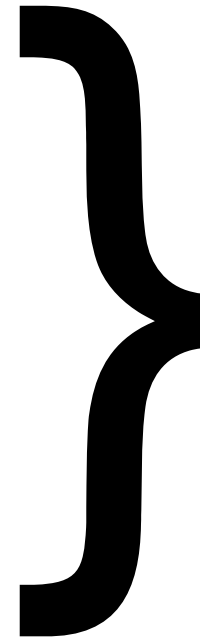


- Bowler hats from 1920s
- Aymara Chola dress
- Practiced Ayllu (community)
- Current population ~2 million
- Mostly Bolivia, Peru, Chile
- Well known for political activism, incl. 2005 President Evo Morales (coca grower)
- *Kamisaraki* = How are you?
- Unusual concept of time

# Major ethnic groups

- Aymara (south)
- Amahuaca
- Bora
- Cocama
- Cocamilla
- Jivaro
- Kofan
- Korubo
- Matses
- Mayoruna

- Muinane
- Ocaina
- Quechua
- Shipibo
- Ticuna
- Tukano
- Urarina
- Witoto
- Yagua
- Yukuna
- Inca



45% of total  
population in  
Peru



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