

America - Government

Mayan City-States

- Had a large number of city-states.
- A city-state was made up of a major city and the surrounding areas.
- Each city-state had its own independent government.
- Capital city of Tikal.

Mayan King

- Each city-state was ruled by a king (monarchy).
- King was called “halach uinic” means lord or ruler.
- Believed that their king was given the right to rule by the gods.
- Believed that the king worked as an intermediary between the people and the gods.

Mayan Other Officials

- Also had a council of leaders & military leaders that were chosen from the nobles.
- Priests were powerful figures – Kings asked for advice on what to do in a crisis and to get predictions of the future.

Mayan Laws

- Strict laws
- Murder, arson, and acts against the gods were often punished with death (depending on cause).
- Had a court system – king, local leaders or nobles served as a judges.
- At the trial the judge would review evidence and listen to witnesses.
- Punishment was carried out immediately.
- Punishment for crimes included death, slavery, and fines.
- Did not have prisons.
- Victim of the crime wanted to pardon or forgive the accused, then the punishment may be reduced.

Aztec Empires

- Empire was made up of city-states.
- Each city-state paid the king a tribute (tax).
- Capital city of Tenochtitlan.

Aztec King

- A monarchy where an Emperor or King was the primary ruler.
- Called their ruler the Huey Tlatoani who had ultimate power in the land.
- He was appointed by the gods and had the divine right to rule.
- When the emperor died, the new emperor was chosen by a group of high ranking nobles.

Aztec Other Officials

- 2nd in command was the Cihuacoatl who was in charge of running the government on a day to day basis.
- Council of Four were powerful men and generals of the army who gave advice to the emperor and it was important that he had their agreement in major decisions.
- Other important officials include priests, judges, & military leaders.

Aztec Laws

- Fairly sophisticated code of law.
- Laws against stealing, murder, drunkenness, and property damage.
- Courts and judges determined guilt and punishments.
- One time forgiveness law - citizen could confess a crime to a priest and they would be forgiven.

Inca Empire

- Empire was huge, it stretched for over 2000 miles.
- Empire was divided up into quarters called suyu.
- Capital city of Cuzco.
- Each suyu was then further divided into provinces called wamani.

Inca King

- A monarchy ruled by a single leader called the Sapa Inca which means sole ruler.
- He was the most powerful person in the land and everyone else reported to the Sapa Inca.
- His principal wife, the queen, was called the coya.

Inca Other Officials

- Viceroy - Below the Sapa Inca - was a close relative and worked as his closest advisor.
- High Priest - Willaq Umu - second in power due to the importance of religion
- Governors of a Quarter - The Inca Empire was divided up into four quarters. Each of
- these quarters was ruled by a governor called an Apu.
- Council of the Realm - men who advised him on major matters.
- Inspectors - make sure people were paying their taxes and following the laws (called Tokoyrikoq).
- Military Generals – In charge of the military (called Apukuna).
- Other Officials - priests, military officers, judges, and tax collectors.

Inca Taxes

- Each ayllu was responsible for paying taxes to the government.
- The first tax was a portion of the ayllu's crops. Divided up three ways with the first third going to the government, the second third to the priests, and the final third was for the people.
- The second type of tax was called the mit. The mit a was a labor tax that each man between the ages of 16 and 60 had to pay by working for the government for a portion of the year. They worked various jobs such as laborers on government buildings and roads, mining for gold, or even as warriors in the army.

Inca Laws

- Murder, stealing, cheating on taxes, and cursing the gods was all against the law.
- There wasn't a lot of crime in the Inca Empire, because the punishments were harsh.