THE CHRONICLES OF AGRICULTURE:
A PRESERVATION AND ADAPTATION COMPARISON OF YUCATECAN MAYA
AND PERUVIAN QUECHUA AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

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OUTLINE

Thesis

The Maya and Yucatan, Mexico
The Quechua and Andean, Peru
Mayan and Quechua agricultural systems Comparison
Maintained Aspects of Culture
Adapted Aspects of Culture
Conclusion
The Yucatecan Mayan and the Peruvian Quechua cultures have become hybridized to include traditional beliefs and practices along side beliefs and practices from the Spanish conquerors in their agricultural lives. The combination of these two systems has resulted in religious synchronization between the indigenous and Catholic beliefs and gods; changes in the food systems of these two groups and what foods are eaten; and the economic structures in regards to agriculture for these people.
THE MAYA

Culture: 2000 BC to present
Distinct groups in region
  • Similar religious beliefs, agriculture, architecture, etc..
  • Different languages

Scrub jungle environment

Conquered finally in 1697

Ethnographic research
  • Maya culture still alive
THE QUECHUA

Culture: ethnic groups who speak similar languages
- Agricultural based culture
- Ayllu focused

Part of the Incan empire

Live in the Andes

Conquered in 1572

http://www2.palomar.edu/users/scrouthamel/AIS120/inca_map.jpg
http://www.peru-travel-info.com/peruvegetationmap.jpg
MAYAN AGRICULTURE

Traditionally grown in *milpas*

Today use *parcelas*

Crops:
- Corn
- Squash
- Beans
- Peppers
- Cha’a Chaac

Don Mariano milpa, outside of Santa Elena, Mx
QUECHUAN AGRICULTURE

Use andenes for cultivation

Beyond crops have alpacas and llamas

Crops:
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Quinoa
- coca

Pago a Pachamama

http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/photo-essay-indigenous-groups-prepare-for-climate-change/1050417.gif
A QUICK COMPARISON

Similarities

Traditional agriculture still common
Traditional beliefs still in place

Differences

Types of traditional agriculture
Food systems and types of food
Economic standing
MAINTENANCE

Still use traditional farming methods
- *Milpa*
- *Andenes*

Key crops cultivated and eaten
- Corn
- Potatoes

Chac door entrance, Labna
Pachamama

Corn for the gods
- Gold color
- Chac and Pachamama
ADAPTATION

Agricultural labor and production
- Use of modern methods (machinery, fertilizers)
- Change in types of crops
  - Spanish crops
  - Cash crops

Men clearing a milpa field
Santa Elena, Mx
ADAPTATION

Religious syncretism
- Blending of gods
- Gods honored and petitioned in same ceremonies
  - Cha’a Chac
  - Qoyllur Rit’i

Don Herman’s alter,
Santa Elena, Mx
CONCLUSION

Both cultures impacted by Spanish Conquest

Maintenance:
- Farming methods
- Corns importance

Adaptation:
- Agricultural production
- Religious synchronization