



The Inca called their empire "Tahuantinsuyu" which is their word for "Land of the Four Regions". In this game, you assume the role of an "Apu" - a leader of one of the four regions or "Suyus". Your job as an Apu is to increase your status in the eyes of the divine emperor

ALAN D. ERNSTEIN

# INCA EMPIRE

ARTWORK: ALEXANDRE ROCHE

("Sapa Inca") by doing the best job of expanding and improving the empire. Each Apu begins with the manpower of their region of the original empire. They build roads and conquer neighboring Regions increasing the manpower and resources available to them. Apus are rewarded for each new Region they add to the empire and for improvements such as Terraces, Garrisons, Cities, and Temples.



## ◆◆◆ GOAL ◆◆◆

The player who has the most victory points (VP) at the moment Pizarro arrives in the Inca capital at Cuzco wins the game.

## ◆◆◆ EQUIPMENT ◆◆◆



32 Sun Event cards



4 Construction Cost cards



4 Turn Order tiles



45 Local Culture markers



73 Labor Tokens

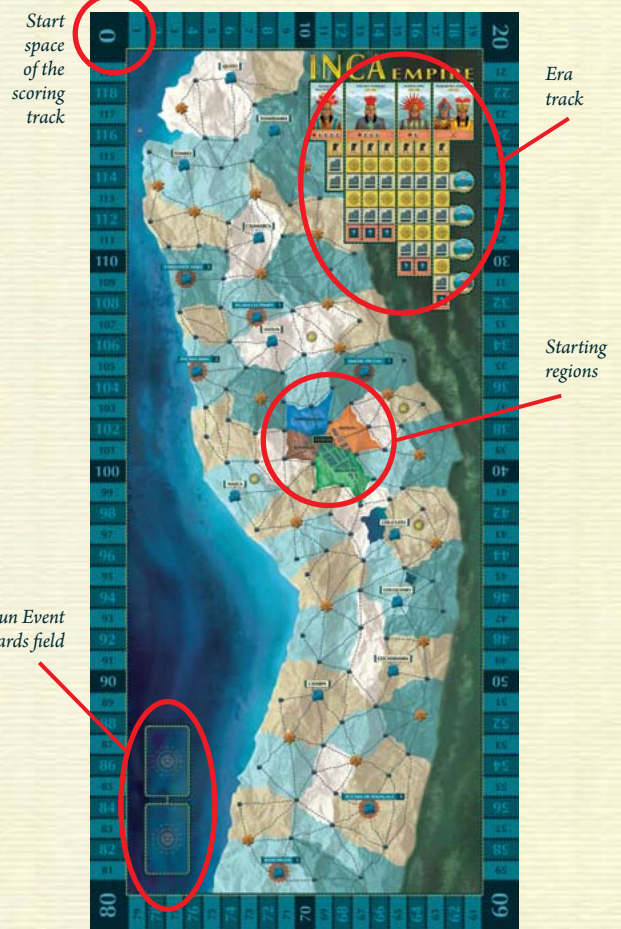


1 Sun Event board (double-sided: front side for 4 players; back side for 3 players)



4 Invasion markers (only required for the variant "Pizarro's Arrival")

1 Game board (double-sided: front side for 4 players; back side for 3 players)



# ◆◆◆ SETUP ◆◆◆

Place the Game board with the side that matches the number of players face up in the center of the table.

Place the Sun Event board with the side that matches the number of players face up next to the Game board.

Place the Labor tokens, City, Garrison and Terrace markers and wooden temples in a bank near the board.

Shuffle the Construction Cost cards and deal one to each player. The card indicates the starting region of the player and that player's color.

The players place the Construction Cost card in front of them. This card gives an overview of the cost of improvements and the number of victory points to be gained.



1 Each player takes the game components (wooden sticks and Inca figure) of their color.

All players place their Inca on the start space of the scoring track, and then place one of their wooden sticks on the road in their starting region (the road between Cuzco and their start location).

2 Place one Local Culture marker face down in each region except for the starting regions around Cuzco. Now reveal each Local Culture marker adjacent to a starting region.

3 Shuffle the Sun Event cards. Each player receives 3 cards face down and takes them in their hand. Place the remaining cards face down in a pile on the corresponding field on the game board.

4 Place the black Inca figure on the first field of the Era track: the upper field of the first era.

4 Shuffle the Turn Order tiles. Each player gets one tile face down. The players then turn their tiles face up and place the tiles clearly visible in front of them.

### Changes for a game with three players:

- Use the side of the game board that matches 3 players
- Use the side of the Sun Event board that matches 3 players
- Only use the Turn Order tiles with numbers 1-3
- Remove the following Sun Event cards from the game:  
1x Annual Pilgrimage, 1x Great Pilgrimage, 1x Local Pilgrimage, 1x Rural Unrest and 1x Wilderness Road.
- Remove the 6 local cultural markers (one of each type) from the game.
- For the rest, the game is set up as described above.



# ◆◆◆ PLAYING THE GAME ◆◆◆



Historically, the Inca had three facets to life: Government (represented by the Inca Phase), Religion (represented by the Sun Phase), and the People (represented by the People Phase). The Sapa Inca is the divine emperor. He distributes points during the scoring phase.

- The game is divided into 4 eras.
- Each era is divided into a number of rounds.
- Each round consists of a number of phases.

The black Inca figure indicates which round and which phase is being played. If all players have completed a phase, the Inca figure moves down one field. When the bottom-most field is reached, the Inca figure is returned to the top-most field of the next column and a new round begins.

Each round is played in the following order:

- INCA PHASE
- SUN PHASE
- PEOPLE PHASE
- SAPA INCA PHASE

Note: It is possible that certain phases are played several times or not at all during one round. The position of the black Inca figure determines which phase is played.

Important: The players mark their VP with their Inca figure on the scoring track. Each step corresponds with 1 VP. If an Inca figure ends in a field where one or several other Inca figures are present, the Inca is placed on the outside next to the other playing pieces. The player whose Inca figure is located on the inside of the scoring track wins in case of a tie.

A description of the individual phases:



# ◆◆◆ INCA PHASE ◆◆◆

The Inca Phase represents the activity and production of the empire. Labor tokens represent the labor each individual provides the empire. This labor tax or "mit'a" was usually a specific amount of time each year. The diminishing supply of new labor tokens at the start of each era represents the fact that, early in the history of the empire, the local resources were made available for growth. As the empire expanded, more resources were required to maintain the empire and, consequently, fewer were available for growth.

1 Players receive Labor tokens in accordance with the current era

Each player receives a number of Labor tokens from the bank equal to the number indicated in the box of the current era.

2 Players receive Labor tokens from conquered regions and terraces

Each player receives the number of Labor tokens that is indicated on the Local Culture markers conquered by the player. Each player also receives one Labor token for every terrace he has built.

3 Players aid each other

After all players have received their Labor tokens, the leading players on the scoring track must give support to trailing players in the form of Labor tokens.

In the Second Era (Early Empire, 1471-1493) the first place player must give the last place player one of their Labor tokens.

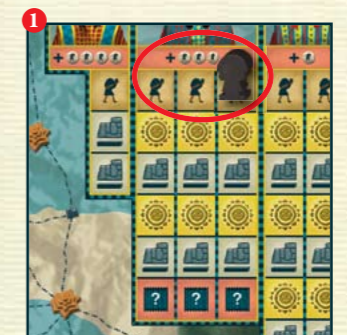
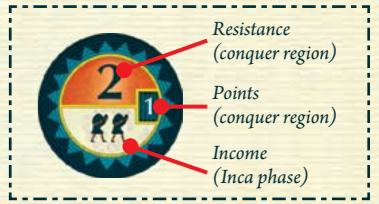
In the Third (Middle Empire, 1493-1528) and Fourth Era (Late Empire, 1528-1533), the first place player must give two Labor tokens to the last place player, and the second place player must give one Labor token to the third place player (ignore the second place support in a 3-player game).

Remark: players do not support each other during the First Era (1438-1471)

1 The Inca Phase in the third round of the second era.

2 Orange has conquered 2 regions and built one terrace. He receives 3 (indicated with this era) + 5 (Local Culture markers) + 1 (terrace) = 9 Labor tokens.

3 He needs to give one Labor token to Blue because the latter is in last position.





# SUN PHASE

The Sun Phase represents the religious effects on Inca life. The land of the Inca was a land of extremes. There were coastal deserts only a few miles from incredibly high mountains. The climate had a great impact on everyday life, especially on the success of farming and fishing. The Sun Events represent these extremes, both positive and negative.

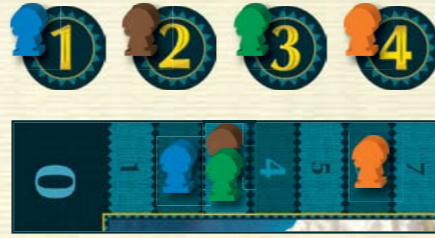
## 1 Determine the Turn Order

Distribute the Turn Order tiles among the players. Start with the player who is in last position on the scoring track and proceed towards the first place player. The player who is in last position gets number one, the player in front number 2 and so on.

**Mind:** in case of a tie the Turn Order is determined by the position of the Inca figures. An Inca figure on the outside comes behind an Inca figure on the inside.

**Note:** the Turn Order does not change in the first era (1438-1471) because there is no Sun Phase.

The Turn Order tiles are distributed as follows: Blue gets "1" because he is in last position. Green and Brown have the same number of points, but as Brown is on the outside, he comes behind Green on the scoring track. Brown gets tile "2" and Green gets tile "3". Orange gets tile "4".



## 2 Play Sun Event cards

In turn order, each player chooses one of his Sun Event cards and places it face down in the quadrant of his choice on the Sun Event board. The player then immediately draws a replacement from the Sun Event deck and takes it into his hand.

**Note:** During one Sun Phase only one new card can be placed in each quadrant. This card is added to cards from a previous Sun Phase, if there are any. If the Sun Event deck is exhausted, shuffle the discard pile and form a new draw pile.

## 3 Reveal and resolve all Sun Event cards

After all players have placed a card, the cards are revealed. The events remain in effect until the next Sapa Inca Phase.

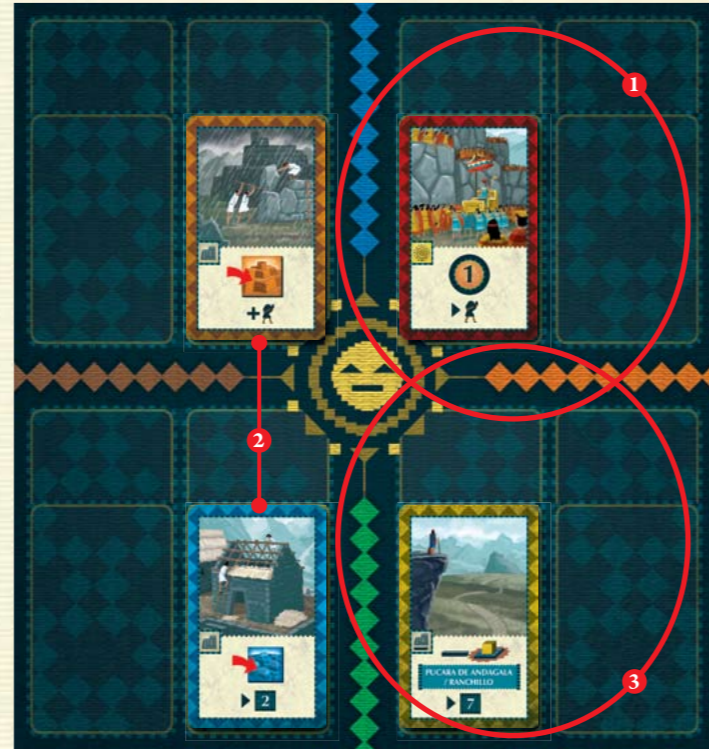
The cards on both sides of the line in the color of a player influence this player's actions. These cards may have a positive or negative effect on actions. For an overview of the effect of these cards please refer to pages 6 and 7 of this rulebook.

During the game, there will be multiple Sun Events in play at the same time. Events are cumulative unless otherwise indicated in the rules.

If the cards "Rural Unrest" and/or "Popular Support" are face up on the Sun Event board, they are resolved

**Note:** Cards are always located between two lines in the color of a player. This means they influence the actions of both players!

immediately. It does not matter whether these cards were placed on the board in the current or in a previous Sun Phase.



- 1 Orange and Blue receive one Labor token from the bank for each Local Culture marker with a resistance of "1" because this card is located between the orange and blue line. The other players do not have this advantage.
- 2 During the People Phase the actions of Brown are influenced by the cards "Harsh Weather" and "Urban Renewal".
- 3 Both Orange and Green can perform the action "Great Pilgrimage".

# PEOPLE PHASE

The People Phase represents the work your people do to directly improve the empire. The mit'a collected during the Inca Phase is now put to use building Roads, Terraces, Garrisons, Cities, Temples, or conquering new Regions. In Turn Order, each player takes the following actions in any desired order. The player may build up to two Roads at no Labor cost.

## Road building

Placement rules:

- All roads of a player need to be connected to his starting region and constitute one interconnected road system (see example 2).
- The player places one of his wooden sticks on a connection between two locations.

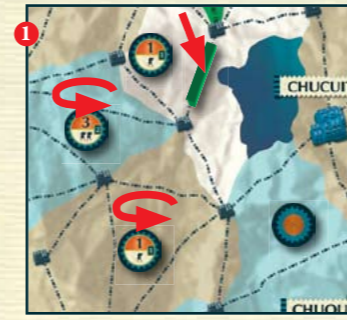
**Note:** While the two actions may be played in any order, you must complete one action before proceeding to the next. You may not build one Road of your Road Building Action, interrupt that Action with a Construction Action, then build your second Road.

- Each connection can only be claimed by one player.

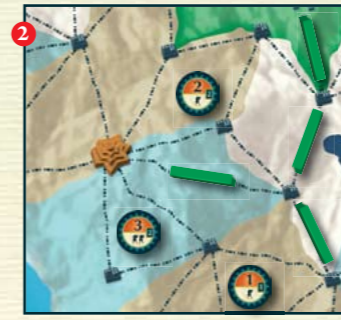
**Exception:** Using the "Wilderness Road" Sun Event, a player may connect the same two Sites as an established Road.

- It is allowed to build a road in an unconquered region provided one of the two end points border a conquered region.

**Important:** if a connection is made with a site bordering a region with an undisclosed Local Culture marker, the marker is revealed (see example 1).



Reveal undisclosed Local Culture Markers in regions bordering a site connecting to the road system.



All roads of a player should be connected to his starting region. Branches are allowed.



A road can't be built between two sites bordering a non conquered region.

## Construction

The player takes one of the following actions.

### Found a City

Inca Cities were almost always built on the sites of previously existing cities. That is why most of the City sites in the game have names that are ultimately derived from pre-Inca civilizations.

The player turns in six Labor tokens and places a City tile on a city site (blue) on the game board that is connected to his road system and is only in a conquered Region.

Founding a city immediately scores the player 4 VP.

### Build a Garrison

A Garrison was a small outpost along the Road system with stores of food and drink. These stores were kept as provisions for military activity or to provide support to the population in case of a disaster such as crop failure or El Niño.

The player turns in four Labor tokens and places a Garrison marker on a Garrison site (orange) on the game board that is connected to his road system and only borders conquered regions.

Building a Garrison immediately scores the player 3 VP.

### Conquer a Region

The Inca expanded their empire to its greatest size within the span of 100 years. As many people were conquered through coercion as warfare. Coercion often took the form of negotiations brokered within sight of as many as 20,000 Inca warriors.

The player turns in Labor tokens equal to the resistance on the Local Culture marker. He then takes the Local Culture marker and places it in front of him on the table. Upon conquering a Region, all Local Culture markers in adjacent Regions are revealed.

Conquering a region immediately scores the player VP equal to the VP number listed on the Local Culture marker.

**Condition:** in order to conquer a Region, you must have at least one Road connected to a site adjacent to the unconquered Region.

### Build a Temple

While conquered Regions were allowed to keep their own deities, the Inca required them to add the Sun god to the top of the religious hierarchy. Temples to the Sun God were raised at Cities as they were added to the empire. The Significant City Sites have important temples left from previous empires.

The player turns in five Labor tokens and places a Temple marker on a City marker on the game board that is connected to his road system. The player does not need to have founded the city himself.

Building a temple immediately scores the player 4 VP. If the player builds a temple on a Significant City Site, he receives the number of bonus points indicated on the board next to this location.

### Build a Terrace

Terraces are probably the most visible legacy of the Inca. While they did not invent Terraces, they perfected their construction throughout the Andes. The terraces increased viable farmland by as much as 100%. Terraces contributed to what is referred to as the vertical economy of the Inca and are still in use today.

The player turns in two Labor tokens and places a Terrace marker next to one of his conquered Local Culture markers. There can be only one Terrace marker next to each Local Culture marker.

Building a terrace immediately scores the player 1 VP.

**Important:** Each terrace produces one additional Labor token during the Inca Phase and scores 1 VP during each Sapa Inca Phase for its controller.

### Build an additional Road

A player may turn in one Labor token to build one Road according to the road placement rules.

### Pass

The player passes and does not take an action.

**Note:** The Roads on the game board are all located in specific Regions, even if they follow a border. Place the wooden sticks on the game board in such a way that it is clear to everyone in which region the road is located.

◆◆◆◆ **SAPA INCA PHASE** ◆◆◆◆



The Sapa Inca is the supreme Inca. During the Sapa Inca Phase, victory points are awarded for the maintenance of the improvements built in the empire.

**1 Discard all Sun Event cards on the Sun Event board**

All cards on the Sun Event board should be discarded.

**2 Players score victory points**

Players score in order of the Inca figures on the scoring track (first place player is awarded points first).

- Each terrace built by the player 1 VP
- Each garrison connected to the player's road system 2 VP
- Each city connected to the player's road system 3 VP
- Each temple connected to the player's road system 1 VP

**3 Unused Labor tokens return to the bank**

The players may keep Labor tokens equal to amount indicated in the box of the current Era. The players return unused Labor tokens to the bank.

**Note:** the players also receive VP for cities, temples and garrisons built by other players that are connected to their road system. The card "Rural Unrest" may cause part of a player's road system to be disconnected from Cuzco. If this is the case, the player is only awarded points for improvements connected by roads to Cuzco.

◆◆◆◆ **END OF THE GAME** ◆◆◆◆

The game ends immediately after the Sapa Inca Phase of the Late Empire. It's the arrival of Pizarro. At the end of the game, the person in the lead on the Scoring track wins the game. There are no ties - the marker closest to the center of the board is ahead.

◆◆◆◆ **OVERVIEW OF SUN EVENT CARDS** ◆◆◆◆

- Destruction cards
- Terrace cards
- Road cards
- City cards
- Garrison cards
- Military cards
- Temple cards

The symbols on the Sun Event cards refer to the phase and/or action the card effects.



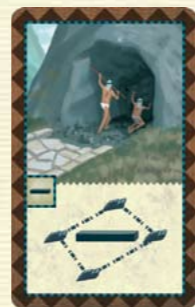
**Rural Unrest (2x):** At the end of each Sun Phase, destroy all Roads that have any portion built in unconquered Regions.



**Expert Surveyors (1x):** If you build a Terrace during the People Phase, you may build an additional one at the regular building costs.



**Workers Press On (2x):** If you choose to build an Additional Road during the Construction Action of the People Phase, you may build another Additional Road at no cost.



**Wilderness Road (4x):** One of the Roads you build during the People Phase may be built between any two sites.



**Extra Road Crew (2x):** During the Road Building Action of your People Phase, you may build one extra Road for free.



**El Niño Flooding (2x):** You must build one fewer Road during the Road Building Action of your People Phase.

**The following rules apply:**

- this road may run parallel to an existing road (you place a wooden stick next to a stick on the game board and thus claim the same road).
- this road must not cross any existing connection (whether claimed or not) on the board.
- this road must not run between the sea and a site
- this road must not pass more than one border.



**Epidemic (2x):** Every City you build during the People Phase requires two additional Labor.



**Key Outpost (1x):** During the Construction Action of the People Phase, you may improve a previously constructed Garrison to a City by spending four Labor tokens. This city immediately scores you 4 VP.

**Note:** the building costs and the number of points for this action are influenced by the 'Epidemic' and 'Urban Renewal' cards.



**Urban Renewal (1x):** Every City you build during the People Phase is immediately worth two additional VP.



**Building Project (1x):** If you choose to build a Garrison during the People Phase, you may build two instead of one. You must provide the Labor for each Garrison.



**Harsh Weather (1x):** Every Garrison you build during the People Phase requires one additional Labor token.



**Stores Stop Famine (1x):** Every Garrison you build during the People Phase is worth one additional VP.



**Military Superiority (1x):** Every Region you conquer during the People Phase requires one fewer Labor token. A Region with a resistance of one may be conquered without using any tokens.



**Popular Support (2x):** All Local Culture markers you control with a resistance of «1» immediately provide you with one additional Labor token at the end of the Sun Phase.



**Rapid Expansion (2x):** You may choose to conquer a (second) Region in addition to any other option during the Construction Action of the People Phase. The cost to conquer this Region is increased by two Labor tokens.



**Resistance (2x):** Every Region you conquer during the People Phase requires one additional Labor token.



**Religious Fervor (1x):** You may build a Temple at a Garrison instead of a City during the People Phase.



**Solar Eclipse (1x):** If you choose to build a Temple, you must skip the Road Building Action of the People Phase.

**Note:** you may not build a Temple and go on a Pilgrimage in the same People Phase.

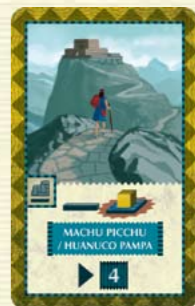
The following cards are used in 4-player games only:



**Great Pilgrimage (1x):** If your Road system is connected to a Temple at either Pucara de Andagala or Ranchillo, you may skip either the Road Building Action or the Construction Action of the People Phase and go on a pilgrimage. This immediately scores you 7 VP. You may only go on one Pilgrimage per People Phase.



**Annual Pilgrimage (1x):** If your Road system is connected to a Temple at either Chiquitoy Viejo or Pachacamac, you may skip either the Road Building Action or the Construction Action of the People Phase and go on a pilgrimage. This immediately scores you 5 VP. You may only go on one Pilgrimage per People Phase.



**Local Pilgrimage (1x):** If your Road system is connected to a Temple at either Machu Picchu or Huanuco Pampa, you may skip either the Road Building Action or the Construction Action of the People Phase and go on a pilgrimage. This immediately scores you 4 VP. You may only go on one Pilgrimage per People Phase.

# ◆◆◆ INCA EMPIRE PHASE OVERVIEW ◆◆◆



## INCA PHASE

- 1 Receive Labor tokens equal to the Resources of the current Era.
- 2 Receive Labor tokens equal to the Labor value of conquered Regions and Terraces.
- 3 Leading players give support to trailing players.

## SUN PHASE

- 1 Determine new Turn Order
- 2 Place Sun Event Cards.
- 3 Reveal and resolve all Sun Event cards.

## PEOPLE PHASE

Each player takes the following Actions in any order:

- Road Building
- Construction

## SAPA INCA PHASE

- 1 Discard all Sun Event cards on the Sun Event board
- 2 Award victory points
- 3 Unused Labor tokens return to the bank.

	Inca phase	People phase	Sapa Inca phase
	Income	Costs	VP
City		6 Labor tokens	4
Temple		5 Labor tokens	4
Garrison		4 Labor tokens	3
Terrace	1 Labor token	2 Labor tokens	1
Conquering regions			

## Rules easy to forget:

- Building an improvement scores VP for the player building the improvement. However, with the exception of roads and terraces, improvements are not owned by the player who built them. Once an improvement has been built, it becomes part of the entire Inca Empire.
  - Garrisons and cities may only be built on sites located in conquered regions or adjacent to conquered regions. It is not possible to build on sites that are completely located in an unconquered region until this region is conquered.
- Note:** all sites are in principle located in a region or on the border of a region. If the site is very close to a border, this means that the site is located on the border of a region.
- The roads on the game board are all located in a specific region, even if they follow a border. The Sun Event cards that affect Roads in unconquered regions only influence roads actually located in such a region and not roads following the borders of such a region.
  - Local Culture markers are revealed when a player connects a site on the border to his road system and when a neighboring region is conquered.
  - The number of tokens, markers and roads available in the game is unlimited.
  - If an Inca figure ends on a position on the scoring track already occupied by one or several players after scoring VP, this figure is placed on the outside next to the other figures. The player whose figure is located closest to the centre of the board is always in the highest position in case of a tie.

# ◆◆◆ VARIANTS ◆◆◆



**Pizarro's Arrival:** There is a variable ending (the uncertainty of Pizarro's arrival). Shuffle the Invasion markers face down and place one next to each of the People Phases of the Late Empire. At the end of each People Phase in the Late Empire, turn over the Invasion marker next to that phase. When 'Pizarro's Arrival' is revealed, go directly to the Sapa Inca Phase. The game is over.



**Early Downfall:** If you want a shorter, 4-player game, remove the following cards: Annual Pilgrimage, Great Pilgrimage, and Local Pilgrimage. Skip the third column of the Early Empire and the second column of the Middle Empire.

**The Gods Agree:** During the setup place 3 Local Culture markers that provide 3 Labor face up in de regions marked with a Hand of God symbol. Place the remaining markers according to the rules.



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