

Lesson 7: Primary Source Analysis The Fall of the Inca

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Read the two accounts of the *same event*: the capture of the Sapa Inca Atahualpa at Cajamarca.

Source 1: Pedro Pizarro (Spanish Conquistador, Pizarro's cousin)

"The governor, [Francisco] Pizarro, saw it was time to act. He gave the signal... Trumpets sounded, and the cannons were fired... The horses charged, and the foot soldiers opened up on the Indians... a great mass of them died. They were so terrified, they climbed on top of each other, forming mounds and suffocating. ...The governor, seeing Atahualpa would not be taken, grabbed him, and though the Indians wrapped around him, he pulled him from his litter."

Source 2: Titu Cusi Yupanqui (Inca Royal, Atahualpa's nephew, writing years later)

"My uncle Atahualpa went to meet the Spanish, believing them to be good people... He offered them *chicha* [corn drink] in a golden cup. They took it and knocked it from his hand. Atahualpa, angry, cried out... The Spanish, with their horses and guns (which they call 'llapas' - thunder), set upon them... They attacked our people like lions, with great cruelty, killing many."

Analysis Questions:

1. **Sourcing:** Who wrote Source 1? Who wrote Source 2? Why does the author's identity (their "side") matter?

2. **Point of View:** How does Source 1 (Spanish) describe the Inca? (Use a word or phrase from the text).

3. **Point of View:** How does Source 2 (Inca) describe the Spanish? (Use a word or phrase from the text).

4. **Bias/Reliability:** Which account do you think is *more* reliable? Or are they both reliable in different ways? Explain.

5. **History:** As a historian, what do you know for *sure* happened at Cajamarca based on *both* texts?
