

Peru Study Tour Paper

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Culture has long been studied by psychologists and the differences between cultures have both been admired and admonished. Cultural psychologists chooses to have an open mind as they analyze different cultures and the psychology behind them. However, it has been argued that one can only be as open as one can make their mind under the opinions and culture that they have been brought up into. In the book *Psychology and Culture*, Lonner states:

Can we ... detach ourselves from our surroundings, our own culture, and form some objective understanding of who we are and what we do, or are the conceptions and explanations that we generate ... inextricably bound by our own experiences? (1994, pg. 129)

In other words, can we really remove our own bias enough to understand a different culture, religion, or even a differing opinion? Understanding culture is much easier to do when one is in it and focusing on understanding the culture you are immersed in. In this paper I will be describing several different points of Peruvian culture that I noticed during my time in various areas of Peru and comparing them with research done on the topics.

Throughout the trip to Peru, the fact that sexism is quite prevalent in Peru kept being brought up. The stories told by Professor Teal about the Stahl's in the context of the Peruvians were quite sexist in nature. Teal made sure to state that his opinions were not in alliance with the ones presented by most Peruvians, but often the stories regard Fernando 0 sc999Cs1 cs0

Fernando Stahl clinic. Not just the Stahl clinic, but a specification of the male head as being the one it was dedicated to. Professor Teal made it a

places that we would tour. In another way,

An article on the website of Cultural Survival publications stated:

Until recently, anthropologists routinely characterized the Aymara of the altiplano (high Andean plateau) around Lake Titicaca in southern Peru as almost pathologically inflexible and fatalistic. Yet during the last few decades, these people, who live in a flood- and drought-prone region at an altitude of 12,500 ft., have shown a remarkable ability to adapt to rapidly changing conditions.

The people

Tour

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mountainside. Each terrace had layers of sand, stone, and dirt to promote the best drainage for heady rains. The buildings and walls all over

communicating with the people non-verbally, and visiting their landmarks to understand their culture in a deeper sense.

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entirely

Housing and adaptation is crazy. Flooding and then decrease in water gives

The sun and the Incan religion combined is pretty awesome

Then catholicism stepped in and took over—but not for long! The Incan culture has a resiliency and combined their religion into catholicism.

Incan's fit the stones in the Sun temple to Inti together perfectly — what amazing builders without ever seeing a tool that is used for carving. They built rocks on rocks and carved them out with other rocks.

The development of carrying these rocks all over must have been intense. Did they just use man power? I mean, just lifting!? That seems impossible. Did they create wagons and have them pulled by llamas?

The fitting together of stones focuses a lot on fertility. I wasn't expecting that at all!

Makes me wonder why — were they afraid of becoming extinct?

The street walls are so closely designed and fitted together as well.

Went to El Truco for supper. Sun moon and stars were focused on in the detailing and decorations of the restaurant. All over the ceiling and picture on the walls with combination of Catholicism.

Sat on the holy place above some Incan ruins — really makes you think about what was here and how important it was to people then and how important it is to the descendants now.

White Jesus overlooking Cuzco was pretty cool to see. The predominance of Catholicism makes me wonder why they have a Jesus, not to mention there were three crosses on the hill that were empty. Kind of strange, but interesting none the less.

walked back from the Jesus statue on the old Incan trail. Hard to imagine or remember that it is so old. Cuzco is quite the tourist attraction. So many modern people take away a little bit, but the overall is still incredible to experience.

Market experiences were not really that hectic, as I expected them to be. Majority of sellers are women, but interesting that the expensive stores seem to be run by men.

Another form of sexism maybe.

Police throughout Cuzco are predominantly female. A twist to the sexism stream?

Machu Picchu is an incredible place. The history, solemnity, and religion is so thick on that mountain you can feel it.

This culture is crazy — they built a city on the mountain. This city is incredible. Even

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though it's tumbling down, the structures are still able to be made.

Seemed like a bit of a show for nothing, too. They go on land to get supplies and do this for tourists, so it seemed a little bit fake.