

# **Mita System Ap World History Definition**



## **Mita System AP World History Definition: Understanding Incan Labor Practices**

The Inca Empire, a marvel of pre-Columbian South America, thrived on a complex system of organization that extended beyond its sophisticated infrastructure and impressive agricultural techniques. Central to its success was the mita system, a labor tribute that profoundly shaped Incan society and its relationship with its vast territories. This post offers a comprehensive definition of the mita system within the context of AP World History, exploring its mechanics, impact, and ultimate demise. We'll delve into its nuances, separating fact from common misconceptions, and providing you with the knowledge to ace any related exam questions.

## **What is the Mita System? A Concise AP World History Definition**

The mita system, at its core, was a form of mandatory public service in the Inca Empire. Unlike forced labor under brutal regimes, it was a system interwoven into the fabric of Incan society, serving as both a crucial economic engine and a mechanism for social cohesion. It required all able-bodied citizens to contribute a certain amount of labor to the empire. This wasn't simply arbitrary servitude; it was a system with a clear structure, defined obligations, and (ideally) reciprocal benefits. This is a crucial distinction for understanding its function within the larger Incan socio-economic framework. The key takeaway for AP World History is that it wasn't simply slave labor but a structured system integrated into Incan society.

# The Mechanics of the Mita System: How Did It Function?

The mita system wasn't a uniform application across the empire. Its implementation varied based on factors like geographic location, population density, and the specific needs of the empire. However, some common elements existed.

## #### Obligations and Duration:

Individuals, usually men, were obligated to work for a set period. The duration varied; some tasks might last for a few weeks, while others could extend for several months. It's important to note that the system was not designed to be permanently enslaving. The goal was to utilize the available labor pool effectively to benefit the entire empire.

## #### Types of Mita Labor:

The mita wasn't confined to a single type of work. It encompassed a vast range of activities crucial to the empire's functioning:

**Agricultural work:** Cultivating royal lands and state-controlled farms to ensure food security for the empire.

**Mining operations:** Extraction of precious metals like gold and silver, vital for Inca wealth and prestige.

**Construction projects:** Building infrastructure, including roads, irrigation systems, temples, and storehouses.

**Military service:** A critical aspect, ensuring the defense and expansion of the empire.

## #### Compensation and Reciprocity:

While mandatory, the mita system wasn't entirely without compensation. Workers received food and shelter during their service period. Moreover, the overarching belief in the Inca's collective well-being justified the system. Infrastructure improvements and a stable food supply benefited everyone, theoretically creating a sense of reciprocal obligation and shared responsibility.

# The Impact of the Mita System on Inca Society

The mita system had a profound and multifaceted impact on Inca society:

**Economic Growth:** It provided the manpower necessary for large-scale projects, fueling the Inca Empire's impressive economic expansion and infrastructure development.

**Social Control:** It reinforced the Inca's authority and centralized control over the population, solidifying their position as the ruling power.

**Integration of Diverse Regions:** The system helped integrate the diverse regions of the empire, fostering a sense of shared purpose and participation in the common good (although this was not always perceived as positive by all subjects).

**Potential for Abuse:** While intended as a system of reciprocal benefit, the mita system, in practice,

was susceptible to abuses of power. Local officials might overwork individuals, demand excessive labor, or exploit their position for personal gain.

## **The Decline and Demise of the Mita System**

The Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire marked a turning point for the mita system. The Spanish initially maintained aspects of the system, modifying it to serve their own exploitative ends, particularly in mining operations. This drastically intensified the burdens placed upon the indigenous population and led to widespread suffering and demographic collapse. The mita system, initially designed as a structured labor system within a complex societal framework, became a tool of colonial oppression. This represents a crucial point to highlight in an AP World History context – the transformation of an existing system into a tool of oppression under colonial rule.

## **Conclusion**

The mita system holds a significant place in understanding the Inca Empire's organization, economy, and social structure. While initially designed to facilitate the empire's impressive achievements, its later exploitation under colonial rule showcases a tragic shift and a stark warning about the potential for abuse inherent in any system of mandatory labor. Understanding the mita system requires careful examination of its multifaceted nature, separating its intended purpose from its eventual consequences. This nuanced understanding is vital for successfully navigating AP World History examinations and developing a more complete understanding of pre-Columbian history.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Was the Mita System slavery? No, the mita system was not slavery. While mandatory, it was a structured system of labor service with (theoretically) reciprocal benefits and a defined duration, unlike the permanent enslavement of chattel slavery.
2. How did the mita system contribute to the Inca's success? The mita provided the manpower for large-scale infrastructure projects, agricultural production, and mining operations, all essential to the empire's economic strength and expansion.
3. How did the Spanish modify the mita system? The Spanish intensified the system, using it to exploit the indigenous population primarily for mining silver, resulting in widespread suffering and death.
4. What were some of the negative consequences of the mita system? Potential abuses by local officials, overwork, and the general hardship of mandatory labor, particularly after Spanish colonization, represent significant negative consequences.

5. How does understanding the mita system help in AP World History? Studying the mita provides a deeper comprehension of Inca society, economic organization, and the impact of colonization, crucial for success in AP World History.

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**mita system ap world history definition:** *The Incas* Terence N. D'Altroy, 2014-05-27 The Incas is a captivating exploration of one of the greatest civilizations ever seen. Seamlessly drawing on history, archaeology, and ethnography, this thoroughly updated new edition integrates advances made in hundreds of new studies conducted over the last decade. • Written by one of the world's leading experts on Inca civilization • Covers Inca history, politics, economy, ideology, society, and military organization • Explores advances in research that include pre-imperial Inca society; the royal capital of Cuzco; the sacred landscape; royal estates; Machu Picchu; provincial relations; the khipu information-recording technology; languages, time frames, gender relations, effects on human biology, and daily life • Explicitly examines how the Inca world view and philosophy affected the character of the empire • Illustrated with over 90 maps, figures, and photographs

**mita system ap world history definition:** *The Potosí Mita, 1573-1700* , 1985-08 Potosí, a mining center in what is now Bolivia, was the most productive source of silver in the Spanish American Empire between the mid-1500's and the late seventeenth century. Much of this success was attributable, at least initially, to the mita, a system of draft Indian labor instituted by Viceroy Francisco do Toledo in 1573 for the working of the silver mines and refineries. Bitter debate swirled around the mita during most of its 250-year history. It was assailed by its enemies as a form of servitude worse than slavery and accused of depopulating the provinces subject to it, yet it was supported by many, however reluctantly, who believed that the Spanish Empire depended on Potosí silver for its survival. The author traces the evolution of the mita from its inception to the end of the Hapsburg epoch in 1700. The primary focus is on the metamorphosis of the mita under the pressures of changing production realities at Potosí and demographic developments in the provinces from which the Indians were drafted. The author describes the role of native headmen (kurakas) in the system, the means used by Indians to evade service, and the efforts of the mining guild to tailor the mita to its needs. The secondary focus is on the Hapsburg government's administration of the mita, especially those factors that prevented the Crown or its viceroys from being fully effective.

**mita system ap world history definition:** *History of the Inca Realm* Maria Rostworowski de Diez Canseco, 1999 History of the Inca Realm, by Maria Rostworowski de Diez Canseco, is a classic work of ethnohistorical research which has been both influential and provocative in the field of Andean prehistory. Rostworowski uses a great variety of published and unpublished documents and secondary works by Latin American, North American, and European scholars in fields including history, ethnology, archaeology, and ecology, to examine topics such as the mythical origins of the Incas, the expansion of the Inca state, the organization of Inca society, including the political role of women, the vast trading networks of the coastal merchants, and the causes of the disintegration of the Inca state in the face of a small force of Spaniards. At each step, Dr Rostworowski presents her own views, clearly and forcefully, along with those of other scholars, providing her readers with varied evidence from which to draw their own conclusions.

**mita system ap world history definition:** *The First New Chronicle and Good Government* Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, 2010-01-01 One of the most fascinating books on pre-Columbian and early colonial Peru was written by a Peruvian Indian named Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala. This book, *The First New Chronicle and Good Government*, covers pre-Inca times, various aspects of Inca culture, the Spanish conquest, and colonial times up to around 1615 when the manuscript was finished. Now housed in the Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark, and viewable online at

[www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/poma/info/en/frontpage.htm](http://www.kb.dk/permalink/2006/poma/info/en/frontpage.htm), the original manuscript has 1,189 pages accompanied by 398 full-page drawings that constitute the most accurate graphic depiction of Inca and colonial Peruvian material culture ever done. Working from the original manuscript and consulting with fellow Quechua- and Spanish-language experts, Roland Hamilton here provides the most complete and authoritative English translation of approximately the first third of *The First New Chronicle and Good Government*. The sections included in this volume (pages 1–369 of the manuscript) cover the history of Peru from the earliest times and the lives of each of the Inca rulers and their wives, as well as a wealth of information about ordinances, age grades, the calendar, idols, sorcerers, burials, punishments, jails, songs, palaces, roads, storage houses, and government officials. One hundred forty-six of Guaman Poma's detailed illustrations amplify the text.

**mita system ap world history definition: Good, Bad, and Ugly Colonial Activities: Studying Development across the Americas** Miriam Bruhn, 2008 Abstract: Levels of economic development vary widely within countries in the Americas. This paper argues that part of this variation has its roots in the colonial era. Colonizers engaged in different economic activities in different regions of a country, depending on local conditions. Some activities were bad in the sense that they depended heavily on the exploitation of labor and created extractive institutions, while good activities created inclusive institutions. The authors show that areas with bad colonial activities have lower gross domestic product per capita today than areas with good colonial activities. Areas with high pre-colonial population density also do worse today. In particular, the positive effect of good activities goes away in areas with high pre-colonial population density. The analysis attributes this to the ugly fact that colonizers used the pre-colonial population as an exploitable resource. The intermediating factor between history and current development appears to be institutional differences across regions and not income inequality or the current ethnic composition of the population.

**mita system ap world history definition: The Silk Roads** Xinru Liu, 2018-11-14 For more than 1500 years, across more than 4000 miles, the Silk Roads connected East and West. These overland trails and sea lanes carried not only silks, but also cotton textiles, dyes, horses, incense, spices, gems, glass, and ceramics along with religious ideas, governing customs, and technology. For this book, Xinru Liu has assembled primary sources from ancient China, India, Central Asia, Rome and the Mediterranean, and the Islamic world, many of them difficult to access and some translated into English for the first time. Court histories, geographies and philosophical treatises, letters, travelers' accounts, inventories, inscriptions, laws, religious texts, and more, introduce students to the complexities of cultural exchange. Liu's thoughtful introduction considers the many ways the peoples along the Silk Roads interacted and helps students understand the implications for economies and societies, as well as political and religious institutions, over space and time. Maps, document headnotes and annotations, a chronology, questions for consideration, and a selected bibliography offer additional pedagogical support.

**mita system ap world history definition: Latin America in Colonial Times** Matthew Restall, Kris Lane, 2018-06-14 This second edition is a concise history of Latin America from the Aztecs and Incas to Independence.

**mita system ap world history definition: Colonial Institutions and Civil War** Shivaji Mukherjee, 2021-06-03 Shows how colonial indirect rule and land tenure institutions create state weakness, ethnic inequality and insurgency in India, and around the world.

**mita system ap world history definition: Omnia Sunt Communia** Doctor Massimo De Angelis, 2017-04-15 In this weaving of radical political economy, *Omnia Sunt Communia* sets out the steps to postcapitalism. By conceptualising the commons not just as common goods but as a set of social systems, Massimo De Angelis shows their pervasive presence in everyday life, mapping out a strategy for total social transformation. From the micro to the macro, De Angelis unveils the commons as fields of power relations – shared space, objects, subjects – that explode the limits of daily life under capitalism. He exposes attempts to co-opt the commons, through the use of code words such as 'participation' and 'governance', and reveals the potential for radical transformation

rooted in the reproduction of our communities, of life, of work and of society as a whole.

**mita system ap world history definition:** Edhina Ekogidho - Names as Links Minna Saarelma-Maunumaa, 2003-10-17 What are the most popular names of the Ambo people in Namibia? Why do so many Ambos have Finnish first names? What do the African names of these people mean? Why is the namesake so important in Ambo culture? How did the long independence struggle affect personal naming, and what are the latest name-giving trends in Namibia? This study analyses the changes in the personal naming system of the Ambo people in Namibia over the last 120 years, starting from the year 1883 when the first Ambos received biblical and European names at baptism. The central factors in this process were the German and South African colonisation and European missionary work on the one hand, and the rise of African nationalism on the other hand. Eventually, this clash between African and European naming practices led to a new and dynamic naming system which includes elements of both African and European origin.

**mita system ap world history definition:** To See the Unseen Andrew J. Butrica, 1996 A comprehensive & illuminating history of this little-understood, but surprisingly significant scientific activity. Quite rigorous & systematic in its methodology, the book explores the development of the radar astronomy specialty in the larger community of scientists. More than just discussing the development of this field, however, the author uses planetary radar astronomy as a vehicle for understanding larger issues relative to the planning & execution of big science by the Fed. government. Sources, interviews, technical essay, abbreviations, & index.

**mita system ap world history definition:** The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Health Research Ivy Bourgeault, Robert Dingwall, Ray de Vries, 2010-08-19 The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Health Research is a comprehensive and authoritative source on qualitative research methods. The Handbook compiles accessible yet vigorous academic contributions by respected academics from the fast-growing field of qualitative methods in health research and consists of: - A series of case studies in the ways in which qualitative methods have contributed to the development of thinking in fields relevant to policy and practice in health care. - A section examining the main theoretical sources drawn on by qualitative researchers. - A section on specific techniques for the collection of data. - A section exploring issues relevant to the strategic place of qualitative research in health care environments. The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Methods in Health Research is an invaluable source of reference for all students, researchers and practitioners with a background in the health professions or health sciences.

**mita system ap world history definition:** The Cambridge World History Jerry H. Bentley, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, 2015-04-09 The era from 1400 to 1800 saw intense biological, commercial, and cultural exchanges, and the creation of global connections on an unprecedented scale. Divided into two books, Volume 6 of the Cambridge World History series considers these critical transformations. The first book examines the material and political foundations of the era, including global considerations of the environment, disease, technology, and cities, along with regional studies of empires in the eastern and western hemispheres, crossroads areas such as the Indian Ocean, Central Asia, and the Caribbean, and sites of competition and conflict, including Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Mediterranean. The second book focuses on patterns of change, examining the expansion of Christianity and Islam, migrations, warfare, and other topics on a global scale, and offering insightful detailed analyses of the Columbian exchange, slavery, silver, trade, entrepreneurs, Asian religions, legal encounters, plantation economies, early industrialism, and the writing of history.

**mita system ap world history definition:** Toxicological Profile for 1,3-butadiene , 1992

**mita system ap world history definition:** Sterile Insect Technique Victor A. Dyck, Jorge Hendrichs, A.S. Robinson, 2021-01-06 The sterile insect technique (SIT) is an environment-friendly method of pest control that integrates well into area-wide integrated pest management (AW-IPM) programmes. This book takes a generic, thematic, comprehensive, and global approach in describing the principles and practice of the SIT. The strengths and weaknesses, and successes and failures, of the SIT are evaluated openly and fairly from a scientific perspective. The SIT is applicable to some

major pests of plant-, animal-, and human-health importance, and criteria are provided to guide in the selection of pests appropriate for the SIT. In the second edition, all aspects of the SIT have been updated and the content considerably expanded. A great variety of subjects is covered, from the history of the SIT to improved prospects for its future application. The major chapters discuss the principles and technical components of applying sterile insects. The four main strategic options in using the SIT — suppression, containment, prevention, and eradication — with examples of each option are described in detail. Other chapters deal with supportive technologies, economic, environmental, and management considerations, and the socio-economic impact of AW-IPM programmes that integrate the SIT. In addition, this second edition includes six new chapters covering the latest developments in the technology: managing pathogens in insect mass-rearing, using symbionts and modern molecular technologies in support of the SIT, applying post-factory nutritional, hormonal, and semiochemical treatments, applying the SIT to eradicate outbreaks of invasive pests, and using the SIT against mosquito vectors of disease. This book will be useful reading for students in animal-, human-, and plant-health courses. The in-depth reviews of all aspects of the SIT and its integration into AW-IPM programmes, complete with extensive lists of scientific references, will be of great value to researchers, teachers, animal-, human-, and plant-health practitioners, and policy makers.

**mita system ap world history definition: What's In, What's Out** Amanda Glassman, Ursula Giedion, Peter C. Smith, 2017-10-10 Vaccinate children against deadly pneumococcal disease, or pay for cardiac patients to undergo lifesaving surgery? Cover the costs of dialysis for kidney patients, or channel the money toward preventing the conditions that lead to renal failure in the first place? Policymakers dealing with the realities of limited health care budgets face tough decisions like these regularly. And for many individuals, their personal health care choices are equally stark: paying for medical treatment could push them into poverty. Many low- and middle-income countries now aspire to universal health coverage, where governments ensure that all people have access to the quality health services they need without risk of impoverishment. But for universal health coverage to become reality, the health services offered must be consistent with the funds available—and this implies tough everyday choices for policymakers that could be the difference between life and death for those affected by any given condition or disease. The situation is particularly acute in low- and middle income countries where public spending on health is on the rise but still extremely low, and where demand for expanded services is growing rapidly. *What's In, What's Out: Designing Benefits for Universal Health Coverage* argues that the creation of an explicit health benefits plan—a defined list of services that are and are not available—is an essential element in creating a sustainable system of universal health coverage. With contributions from leading health economists and policy experts, the book considers the many dimensions of governance, institutions, methods, political economy, and ethics that are needed to decide what's in and what's out in a way that is fair, evidence-based, and sustainable over time.

**mita system ap world history definition: Rice in Human Nutrition** Bienvenido O. Julianio, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1993 On title page & cover: International Rice Research Institute

**mita system ap world history definition: Classical Fourier Analysis** Loukas Grafakos, 2008-09-18 The primary goal of this text is to present the theoretical foundation of the field of Fourier analysis. This book is mainly addressed to graduate students in mathematics and is designed to serve for a three-course sequence on the subject. The only prerequisite for understanding the text is satisfactory completion of a course in measure theory, Lebesgue integration, and complex variables. This book is intended to present the selected topics in some depth and stimulate further study. Although the emphasis falls on real variable methods in Euclidean spaces, a chapter is devoted to the fundamentals of analysis on the torus. This material is included for historical reasons, as the genesis of Fourier analysis can be found in trigonometric expansions of periodic functions in several variables. While the 1st edition was published as a single volume, the new edition will contain 120 pp of new material, with an additional chapter on time-frequency analysis and other



modern topics. As a result, the book is now being published in 2 separate volumes, the first volume containing the classical topics (Lp Spaces, Littlewood-Paley Theory, Smoothness, etc...), the second volume containing the modern topics (weighted inequalities, wavelets, atomic decomposition, etc...). From a review of the first edition: "Grafakos's book is very user-friendly with numerous examples illustrating the definitions and ideas. It is more suitable for readers who want to get a feel for current research. The treatment is thoroughly modern with free use of operators and functional analysis. Moreover, unlike many authors, Grafakos has clearly spent a great deal of time preparing the exercises." - Ken Ross, MAA Online

**mita system ap world history definition: A Dictionary of World History** Anne Kerr, Edmund Wright, 2015-05-14 This wide-ranging dictionary contains a wealth of information on all aspects of history, from prehistory right up to the present day. Over 4,000 clear, concise entries include biographies of key figures in world history (living and dead), separate entries for every country in the world (summarising key historical events), and in-depth entries on religious and political movements, international organizations, and major conflicts and events and their after-effects. For this new edition, existing entries have been revised and updated to reflect the very latest global events including changes in leadership, wars, political situations, and the statistical information given for each country (population counts, currency, languages, religions). New entries have been included for key figures who have recently come to prominence and world events. The book also contains twenty-five detailed maps linked to key historical events and topics. These include the African slave trade, the Black Death, and the Normandy campaign. Also included are over 200 country maps. The dictionary is enhanced by entry-level web links which are accessed via a dedicated companion website. Encyclopedic in scope, this ambitious A to Z provides an excellent overview of world history both for students and anyone with an interest in the subject.

**mita system ap world history definition: Andean Worlds** Kenneth J. Andrien, 2001 Examines the Spanish invasion of the Inca Empire in 1532 and how European and indigenous life ways became intertwined, producing a new and constantly evolving hybrid colonial order in the Andes.

**mita system ap world history definition: Why Nations Fail** Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, 2013-09-17 Brilliant and engagingly written, *Why Nations Fail* answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Is it culture, the weather, geography? Perhaps ignorance of what the right policies are? Simply, no. None of these factors is either definitive or destiny. Otherwise, how to explain why Botswana has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world, while other African nations, such as Zimbabwe, the Congo, and Sierra Leone, are mired in poverty and violence? Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson conclusively show that it is man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or lack of it). Korea, to take just one of their fascinating examples, is a remarkably homogeneous nation, yet the people of North Korea are among the poorest on earth while their brothers and sisters in South Korea are among the richest. The south forged a society that created incentives, rewarded innovation, and allowed everyone to participate in economic opportunities. The economic success thus spurred was sustained because the government became accountable and responsive to citizens and the great mass of people. Sadly, the people of the north have endured decades of famine, political repression, and very different economic institutions—with no end in sight. The differences between the Koreas is due to the politics that created these completely different institutional trajectories. Based on fifteen years of original research Acemoglu and Robinson marshal extraordinary historical evidence from the Roman Empire, the Mayan city-states, medieval Venice, the Soviet Union, Latin America, England, Europe, the United States, and Africa to build a new theory of political economy with great relevance for the big questions of today, including: - China has built an authoritarian growth machine. Will it continue to grow at such high speed and overwhelm the West? - Are America's best days behind it? Are we moving from a virtuous circle in which efforts by elites to aggrandize power are resisted to a vicious one that enriches and empowers a small minority? - What is the most

effective way to help move billions of people from the rut of poverty to prosperity? More philanthropy from the wealthy nations of the West? Or learning the hard-won lessons of Acemoglu and Robinson's breakthrough ideas on the interplay between inclusive political and economic institutions? Why Nations Fail will change the way you look at—and understand—the world.

**mita system ap world history definition: Regulation of Photosynthesis** Eva-Mari Aro, B. Andersson, 2006-04-11 This book covers the expression of photosynthesis related genes including regulation both at transcriptional and translational levels. It reviews biogenesis, turnover, and senescence of thylakoid pigment protein complexes and highlights some crucial regulatory steps in carbon metabolism.

**mita system ap world history definition: Protected Landscapes and Agrobiodiversity Values** Thora Amend, 2008 Presents twelve case studies from different parts of the world illustrating the role Protected Landscapes are playing in conserving agrobiodiversity and related knowledge and practices. This title includes a synthesis that focuses on the key lessons to be learned from these case studies

**mita system ap world history definition: The Black Man's Burden** Edmund Dene Morel, 1920

**mita system ap world history definition: Compendium of Polymer Terminology and Nomenclature** Richard G Jones, Edward S Wilks, W. Val Metanowski, Jaroslav Kahovec, Michael Hess, Robert Stepto, Tatsuki Kitayama, 2009-01-19 The IUPAC system of polymer nomenclature has aided the generation of unambiguous names that reflect the historical development of chemistry. However, the explosion in the circulation of information and the globalization of human activities mean that it is now necessary to have a common language for use in legal situations, patents, export-import regulations, and environmental health and safety information. Rather than recommending a 'unique name' for each structure, rules have been developed for assigning 'preferred IUPAC names', while continuing to allow alternatives in order to preserve the diversity and adaptability of nomenclature. Compendium of Polymer Terminology and Nomenclature is the only publication to collect the most important work on this subject into a single volume. It serves as a handy compendium for scientists and removes the need for time consuming literature searches. One of a series issued by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), it covers the terminology used in many and varied aspects of polymer science as well as the nomenclature of several different types of polymer including regular and irregular single-strand organic polymers, copolymers and regular double-strand (ladder and spiro) organic polymers.

**mita system ap world history definition: The Conquest of South America** Richard Tames, 1974 Includes a chapter on Portugal.

**mita system ap world history definition: Discard Studies** Max Liboiron, Josh Lepawsky, 2022-05-24 An argument that social, political, and economic systems maintain power by discarding certain people, places, and things. Discard studies is an emerging field that looks at waste and wasting broadly construed. Rather than focusing on waste and trash as the primary objects of study, discard studies looks at wider systems of waste and wasting to explore how some materials, practices, regions, and people are valued or devalued, becoming dominant or disposable. In this book, Max Liboiron and Josh Lepawsky argue that social, political, and economic systems maintain power by discarding certain people, places, and things. They show how the theories and methods of discard studies can be applied in a variety of cases, many of which do not involve waste, trash, or pollution. Liboiron and Lepawsky consider the partiality of knowledge and offer a theory of scale, exploring the myth that most waste is municipal solid waste produced by consumers; discuss peripheries, centers, and power, using content moderation as an example of how dominant systems find ways to discard; and use theories of difference to show that universalism, stereotypes, and inclusion all have politics of discard and even purification—as exemplified in “inclusive” efforts to broaden the Black Lives Matter movement. Finally, they develop a theory of change by considering “wasting well,” outlining techniques, methods, and propositions for a justice-oriented discard studies that keeps power in view.

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whereby island cultures are positioned where they should have been all along—at the forefront of the world historical process of transoceanic migration and landfall. The research, determination, and intellectual dexterity that infuse this nuanced and meticulous reading of Pacific and Caribbean literature invigorate and deepen our interest in and appreciation of island literature. —Vilsoni Hereniko, University of Hawai'i Elizabeth DeLoughrey brings contemporary hybridity, diaspora, and globalization theory to bear on ideas of indigeneity to show the complexities of 'native' identities and rights and their grounded opposition as 'indigenous regionalism' to free-floating globalized cosmopolitanism. Her models are instructive for all postcolonial readers in an age of transnational migrations. —Paul Sharrad, University of Wollongong, Australia *Routes and Roots* is the first comparative study of Caribbean and Pacific Island literatures and the first work to bring indigenous and diaspora literary studies together in a sustained dialogue. Taking the tidalectic between land and sea as a dynamic starting point, Elizabeth DeLoughrey foregrounds geography and history in her exploration of how island writers inscribe the complex relation between routes and roots. The first section looks at the sea as history in literatures of the Atlantic middle passage and Pacific Island voyaging, theorizing the transoceanic imaginary. The second section turns to the land to examine indigenous epistemologies in nation-building literatures. Both sections are particularly attentive to the ways in which the metaphors of routes and roots are gendered, exploring how masculine travelers are naturalized through their voyages across feminized lands and seas. This methodology of charting transoceanic migration and landfall helps elucidate how theories and people travel, positioning island cultures in the world historical process. In fact, DeLoughrey demonstrates how these tropical island cultures helped constitute the very metropolises that deemed them peripheral to modernity. Fresh in its ideas, original in its approach, *Routes and Roots* engages broadly with history, anthropology, and feminist, postcolonial, Caribbean, and Pacific literary and cultural studies. It productively traverses diaspora and indigenous studies in a way that will facilitate broader discussion between these often segregated disciplines.

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