PERU: A Historical Summary

800-300 BC  Chavin Indians in the Callejón de Huaylas
200-500 AD  Nazca and Paracas Indians - Southern Coast
300-1400    Mochica and Chimúr Indians - North Coast
1000        Tiahuanaco Indians living around Lake Titicaca
1200        Quechua - speaking Indians (Incas) living in the Cuzco region
1450        Incas consolidated region of Southern Colombia to Central Chile into the empire at Tawantin-Suyu (the name means that the empire was divided into four quarters, with four roads that led from the capital, Cuzco)
1531        Spaniards arrive in Peru along with Francisco Pizarro - Spanish Conquest
1535        Lima founded
1544        Lima became the capital of the Vice-royalty of Peru, and soon was the most important city of colonial America on the Pacific Coast.
1781-82     Indian revolt led by Tupac Amaru
1821        Argentine General San Martín de los Andes entered Lima and proclaimed Peru's independence from Spain
1824        Colombian leader Simón Bolívar and his general Antonio José de Sucre expelled the last remnants of the Spanish forces in the battles at Junín and Ayacucho
1828        Constitution adopted
1836-1839    Confederation of Peru and Bolivia. Both countries were united under Presidency of Andrés Santa Cruz
1842-1845    Civil War
1866        Spanish invasion was defeated with help from Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile
1879        Spain recognizes Peru's independence in a Peace Treaty
1879-1883    War of the Pacific. Peru fights against Chile and Bolivia
1884 Treaty of Ancón - Chile was awarded Peru's nitrate province of Tarapacá

1924 Formation of the "Aprista movement" -- APRA (American People's Revolutionary Party) by Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre

1945 Peru declared war on Axis Powers

1968 Military rule

1970 Worst Latin American earthquake of the 20th century killing over 50,000

1978 Received an International Monetary Fund loan to ease the debt burden. First free election held in fifteen years elected a 100 member assembly to draft a new constitution

1979 New Constitution

1980 Fernando Belaúnde Terry elected President. Began a conservative program aimed to reverse earlier reforms

The Sendero Luminoso ("Shining Path"), an extreme left-wing guerrilla movement, began activity in the highlands and gained strength despite fierce repression of its Indian sympathizers

The United States asked the government to suppress the production of coca, the Indian's main source of income thus alienating them further

1983 The GNP fell 25%. Floods in the north caused US$ 1 billion of destruction

1985 Alan García of the APRA political party was elected President. Belaúnde and his government were discredited and received only 5% of the vote

1987 Banks and other financial institutions were nationalized on October 12