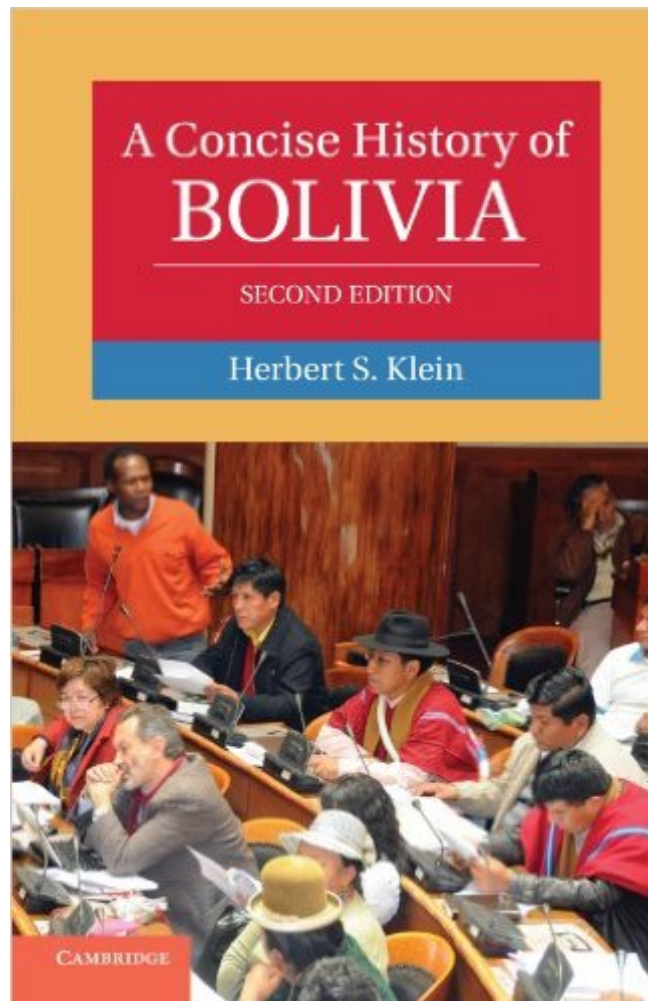


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A Concise History Of Bolivia (Cambridge Concise Histories)



Synopsis

Bolivia is an unusual high-altitude society created by imperial conquests and native adaptations, and it remains today the most Indian of the American republics, yet it fully participates in the world economy. It has also seen the most social and economic mobility of Indian and mestizo populations in Latin America. These are among the themes analyzed in this historical survey. In its first Spanish edition, Herbert Klein's *A Concise History of Bolivia* won immediate acceptance within Bolivia as the new standard history of this important nation. Surveying Bolivia's economic, social, cultural, and political evolution from the arrival of early man in the Andes to the present, this current version brings the history of this society up to the present day, covering the fundamental changes that have occurred since the National Revolution of 1952 and the return of democracy in 1982. These changes have included the introduction of universal education and the rise of the mestizos and Indian populations to political power for the first time in national history. Containing an updated bibliography, *A Concise History of Bolivia* remains an essential text for courses in Latin American history and politics. The second edition brings this story through the first administration of the first self-proclaimed Indian president in national history and the major changes that the government of Evo Morales has introduced in Bolivia society, politics, and economy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read Herbert Klein as I traveled, through Bolivia. The first five chapters (Pre-Columbian through the Creation of a Nation State 1841) enriched my visits to Sucre, Potosi, Oruro, and La Paz. Though the

text is not intended for the average tourist, it is valuable to any traveler who has more than a passing curiosity about this unusual, provocative country. Herbert Klein is Professor of Latin American History at Columbia and his writing style reflects this. "A Concise Short History of Bolivia" reads like a college text book, jammed with dates, famous and obscure names, events and the oblique commentary. It is evident that Klein has a sharp grasp of Bolivian politics and economics, and his comments bring light to the plight and oppression that the people of Bolivia have endured. No where in South America have the poor been as exploited as they have in Bolivia. The leaders of Bolivia have consistently placed the hopes for an economic renewal in Bolivia on one major export (first silver, then tin, now gas). They have not learned from history. They exploit one non-renewable resource, and spend the money (that doesn't first go into the pockets of corrupt politicians and their cronies) on bigger government buildings, a larger military (Bolivia, a landlocked nation still supports a Navy) and squander the people's future. Herbert Klein clearly shows how history documented this. Sadly, it is happening again today with the newly found reserves of LPG. After visiting Potosi and its infamous mines of 'Cerro Rico', a huge cone-shaped mountain where over 300 mines exist to extract silver, I was perplexed to find that Klein does not mention that over 8 million, million! men have suffered and died mining this mountain since 1545 when the silver was discovered.

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