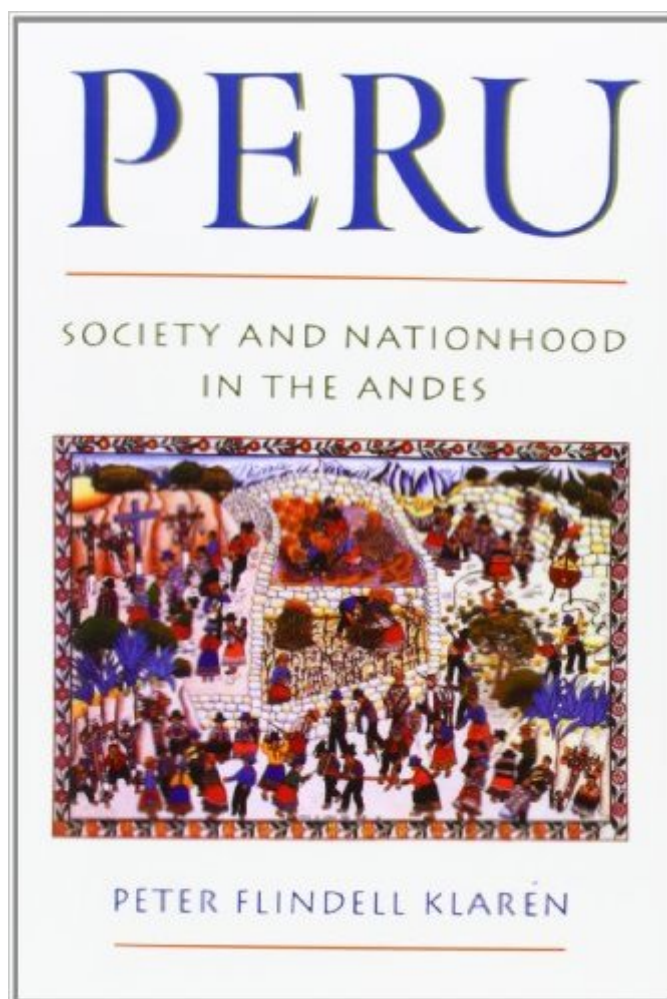


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Peru: Society And Nationhood In The Andes (Latin American Histories)



Synopsis

Peru is a country with a remarkable history---in the earliest times, the Incas managed to found a major civilization here, despite the region's environment, which is one of the harshest in the world. The Spanish colonial rule which followed the conquest exploited basic mineral resources in the area without bringing either stability or wealth to the existing population, and unfortunately, economic depression and civil war have frequently left their pockmarks on Peruvian history ever since. In this book, Klaren explores the country's long history, with particular emphasis on social and economic issues, from pre-Incan times to 1995. Organized chronologically, the text also discusses the major themes of Peru's past, focusing not only on prominent figures, but on the daily lives of ordinary people as well.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

En 25 años no se había publicado una Historia del Perú de envergadura similar en los Estados Unidos: de Chavín a Fujimori, un milenio de trayectoria colectiva en un solo volumen. El prestigio de su autor -Peter F. Klarén de la Universidad George Washington- y del sello editorial que la auspicia -Oxford University Press- son razones suficientes para prever la influencia que Peru: Society and Nationhood in the Andes habrá de tener en los medios «peruanistas» norteamericanos. Establecer un eje interpretativo con validez en el largo plazo es el mayor reto en un proyecto de esta naturaleza. Ni las épicas incaica o pizarrista ni menos aún la lucha por la

independencia funcionan más, advierte el autor, como los eventos fundacionales de una historia nacional. En la supervivencia misma de sus pobladores, en su voluntad e ingenio para levantarse de sucesivas devastaciones -de origen tanto humano como natural-, encuentra el profesor Klarón la clave de la larga duración peruana; una historia, según él, tan rica como dolorosa. Varios siglos de supervivencia comunitaria hicieron del Tawantinsuyo el más efectivo proyecto estatal en la historia de los Andes. Verdadero triunfo sobre la fragmentación que de la geografía misma pareciera emanar. Su derrumbe, y la catástrofe demográfica que prosiguió supondría para las sociedades andinas una precedera «desestructuración». Con todo su poderío, no obstante, el orden colonial no logra imponer por completo los criterios de casta y segregación originalmente previstos.

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