

Denise Y. Arnold

Situating the Andean Colonial Experience

Ayllu Tales of History and Hagiography in the Time of the Spanish

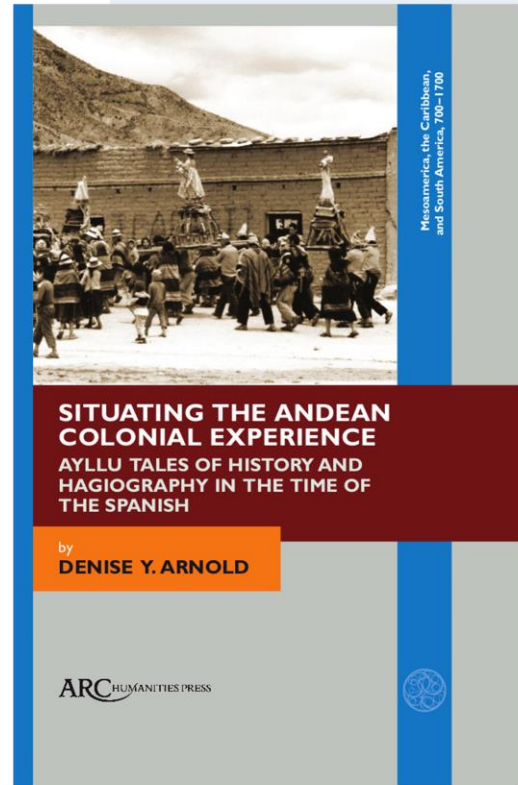
Re-situating Andean colonial history from the perspective of the local historians of ayllu Qaqachaka, in highland Bolivia, this book draws on regional oral history combined with local and public written archives.

Rejecting the binary models in vogue in colonial and postcolonial studies (indigenous/non-indigenous, Andean/Western, conquered/conquering), it explores the complex intercalation of legal pluralism and local history in the negotiations around Spanish demands, resulting in the so-called "Andean pact."

The Qaqachaka's point of reference was the preceding Inka occupation, so in fulfilling Spanish demands they sought cultural continuity with this recent past. Spanish colonial administration, with its roots in Roman-Germanic and Islamic law, infiltrated many practices into the newly-conquered territories. Two major cycles of ayllu tales trace local responses to these colonial demands, in the practices for establishing settlements, and the feeding and dressing of the Catholic saints inside the new church, with their forebears in the Inka mummies.

BIOGRAPHY

Denise Y. Arnold is an Anglo-Bolivian anthropologist and expert in Andean ethnography, who divides her time writing and teaching between London and La Paz.



ARC - Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and South America, 700-1700

January 2021

452 pages, 32 b/w, 21 line-art illustrations

Hardback

156 x 234 mm

€109.00 / £99.00 / \$136.00

ISBN 9781641894043

e-ISBN 9781641894050

BISAC HIS061000/ HIS054000 / REL045000

BIC HBTQ / HBJK / HBTB

KEYWORDS

Qaqachaka; Inca; Inka; Bolivia; Latin American Studies, Andean history, Postcolonial and Colonial History, Ayllu-State Relations, Relational Ontologies

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

Introduction

Part I: The oral history of Qaqachaka

Chapter 2. The first ancestors of the place

Chapter 3. The mit'a, the mines and slavery

Chapter 4. A gentleman's agreement between literate caciques

Chapter 5. Settling the new place of Qaqachaka and its ayllus

Chapter 6. Some clarifications about Juana Doña Ana and her kinsfolk

Part II: The colonial caciques in oral and written history

Chapter 7. The caciques of Qharaqhara and Quillacas-Asanaque

Part III: Qaqachaka marka

Chapter 8. From the history to the hagiography of Qaqachaka

Part IV: The saints appear

Chapter 9. Tata Quri: "Father Gold"

Chapter 10. The construction of Qaqachaka's church

Chapter 11. Tata Quri wants a family

Part V: The religious practices of Qaqachaka marka

Chapter 12. The origins of the ritual practices around the church

Chapter 13. Let's sing to the gods

Chapter 14. Converting the saints into persons

Some conclusions

Glossary

Bibliography

Index of themes

Index of toponyms

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