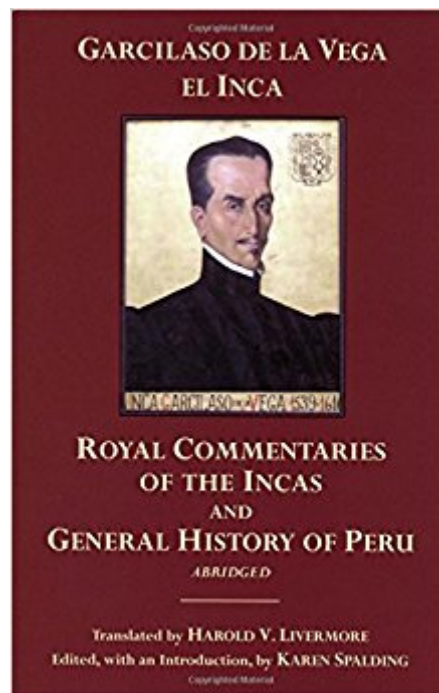




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The Royal Commentaries Of The Incas And General History Of Peru, Abridged



Synopsis

This new abridgment of both volumes of Livermore's classic translation presents those selections that comprise Garcilaso's historical narrative. Karen Spalding's new Introduction and notes set Garcilaso in his intellectual, historical, and cultural contexts.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Hackett Pub Co; Abridged edition (September 15, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0872208435

ISBN-13: 978-0872208438

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #342,994 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Incan](#) #54 in [Books > History > Americas > South America > Peru](#) #357 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America](#)

Customer Reviews

Karen Spalding's abridgment of Livermore's translation is an excellent example of what a sourcebook for classroom use should be. It has a wonderfully enlightening Introduction and the texts are well selected, allowing students to grasp the breath, complexity, and importance of Garcilaso's work. This book enables teachers and professors to expose their students to a unique literary, historical, and artistic production by a mestizo who reflects on both conquest and miscegenation in early colonial Peru. --Tamar Herzog, Stanford University

Abridging fifteen hundred pages to a concise two-hundred-page book, Karen Spalding has provided educators with a text that makes this important author accessible to undergraduates. . . . By publishing both parts of his history together . . . Spalding encourages students to compare the rational Inca state with the corruption and deception of Spanish administrators--exactly as Garcilaso had intended. . . .

Spalding's abridgment of Garcilaso carefully includes excerpts from the major issues detailed in Garcilaso's rich history. --R. Jovita Baber, (University of Illinois-Champaign), in *The Sixteenth Century Journal*

Karen Spalding has taken this acclaimed translation of both *Royal Commentaries* and its less-often-read second part, *General History of Peru*, to produce an outstanding abridged version of the complete work aimed at undergraduate students but that is also appropriate for a

learned general audience curious about Peru's Inca past and the Spanish conquest. . . . This is an excellent introduction to a classic of Latin American Letters. By editing both parts together and giving them equal space, Spalding enables readers to see how Garcilaso argued that the Inca leaders prepared Andean people for the arrival of Christianity and that this possibility was tragically destroyed by the greed and lack of virtue of the conquistadores, who destroyed the social and economic basis of Inca society. --Luis Millones Figueroa, Colby College

Karen Spalding is Professor of History, University of Connecticut, and the author of *Huarochari: An Andean Society Under Inca and Spanish Rule* (Stanford University Press, 1984). Harold V. Livermore is Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese, University of British Columbia.

Considered the most important text from colonial Peru, Garcilaso de la Vega was a mestizo Peruvian born of a Spanish conquistador and an Inca noblewoman. He was born into a relatively privileged position in Cusco soon after the submission of the Incas, and he identified very much with his Inca roots. While his book was censored by the Spanish Crown and the Roman Catholic Church, he aimed to improve the image of Peru's indigenous people. He deftly did so within the censorship constraints. His account of Inca life before the Spaniards is clearly biased not only because of his aim, but also because the Incas hadn't developed writing. Their history is told and retold orally through the generations, and Garcilaso experienced that tradition via extended family on his mother's side. So a little unreliable in that department, but the most interesting part of this book was the second half, which details the countless small wars between rivaling factions of Spaniards in the first years after the conquest. The Spaniard conquistadores fought various wars among themselves with the stakes being all the fruits of the conquered Incas' labor. It illustrates the caudillo mentality in Latin America, a major reason why Latin American nations have fallen behind North America and Western Europe.

This was the only authoritative translation I could find after searching not only a variety of sources on the www but also bookshops in Lima and Cuzco. The introduction places the book in context and assists in better understanding the translated text and its understatement of facets of history that contradicted the Spanish establishment view. This is an essential read for both students and those otherwise interested of South American and pre-columbian history.

Such detail about the conquest with care taken to not upset the reviewers who could have kept the

book from being published. A sad tale!

thanks

This book provides some terrific insights from an original source for anyone looking to enhance understandings of the Inca and their Conquest. A terrific complement to McQuarries' Last Days of the Incas and Hemmings' Conquest of the Incas.

The fact that this book was ever allowed to be printed was amazing! There were several who tried to prevent it from being published. A must read before your trip to Peru. A complete understanding of the history of the Inca Empire. These were a very advanced thinking people. One wonders what would have happened if the Spaniards would have never arrived and destroyed the culture. Maybe there would be a United States of South America with one president and even more contributions to the world from these very intelligent and wonderful people.

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