

People of the Volcano: Andean Counterpoint in the Colca Valley of Peru. By Noble David Cook with Alexandra Parma Cook. (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2007. Pp. xv, 319. \$23.95)

People of the Volcano explores the colonial history of the Andean region through the lens of early interactions between various Spanish and indigenous actors in the Colca Valley of southern Perú. The authors deftly employ micro-regional analysis of the Colca Canyon to illustrate the quotidian effects of decisions made by Spanish colonial authorities at all levels in the administrative hierarchy.

This approach is most successfully carried out in the case of Toledan reforms and reducciones. This Spanish strategy forcibly relocated native Andeans into densely populated villages to control and exact tribute from them more effectively. The authors document the social implications and unintended consequences of this policy at the local level. For example, disease transmission and mortality rates increased due to the increased population density thus diminishing the economic returns to the Spanish crown. This also initiated a norm shift from ayllu (kin based autonomous units of production) endogamy to saya (spatially structured halves of regions or villages) endogamy. These reduced populations made it more difficult to find appropriate partners within one's ayllu, and the reducciones brought geographically distant ayllus together, thus facilitating ayllu exogamy.

The book serves well as a rich ethno-historical account of Andean communities in early colonial times. Its descriptions of these communities' social, political and economic institutions are particularly well written, informative, and entertaining, reading much like a traditional structuralist ethnography. Social taxonomies, marriage norms, punishment rules, subsistence strategies, religious beliefs and movements responding to colonial

contact are all documented with amazing detail thanks to the authors' creative use of multiple lines of evidence. For example, from census records they use adoption of Christian names as proxies for ideology adoption and culture change, and demographic data to track population dynamics and the magnitude of epidemics. They also incorporate archaeological data and cautious analogy with contemporary informants' ethnographic descriptions to fill out the particulars of colonial Colca life. Another indication that the authors' aim is an accurate description of this society is their willingness to entertain multiple causal mechanisms as explanations for complex phenomena. Demographic, ecological, cultural inertia, ideological, and rational economic self-interest reasons are all considered as explanatory frameworks in different sections of the book.

The methodological pluralism is mostly alluded to, or inferred by the reader, but not detailed. Cook provides glimpses of his rich data set throughout the book but does not describe it or consider its potential biases. Therefore, readers wishing for an opportunity to analyze the work's methodological rigor will be left unsatisfied and may wish to refer to the authors' other demographic analyses. There is often a tradeoff between ease of legibility and methodological specificities. Throughout the book the latter is seldom missed. The slight exception may be in the comparison of Inkan and Spanish colonial tax systems. Here the authors make their boldest claim, maintaining that Spanish tribute was more abusive than the Inkan mitayo. Additionally, only the former did not fit Andean notions of reciprocity and was thus perceived as more unjust by local Colca villagers, even though both were imposed by external imperial powers. Although the claim resonates with anti-colonial sentiments and the data they provide, here the different sources of information used for pre-colonial and post-colonial periods may introduce

biases that make such strong interpretations difficult. Colonial historical archaeology, often underrepresented in the social sciences of the Andes, may provide another line of evidence with which to test such claims.

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