Anthropological History of Andean Polities

This collection of essays by scholars from the Andes, Europe, and the United States was originally published in the French journal *Annales* as a special double issue entitled *The Historical Anthropology of Andean Societies*. It combines the perspectives of archaeology, anthropology, and history to present a complex view of Andean societies over various millennia.

The unique features of the Andean landscape, the impact of the Inka state on different regions and ethnic groups, the transformations wrought through the colonial presence, and the creation of nineteenth-century republics are all analyzed, as are the profound continuities in some aspects of Andean culture and social organization to the present day.

The book reflects some of the most innovative research of the last two decades. Apart from its substantive interest for students of the Andes and American civilizations in general, it shows the possibility of closer collaboration between history and anthropology. Of the three editors, John V. Murra is president of the Institute of Andean Research in New York and Nathan Wachtel and Jacques Revel are each *directeur d'études* at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris.
This book is published as part of the joint publishing agreement established in 1977 between the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l’Homme and the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. Titles published under this arrangement may appear in any European language or, in the case of volumes of collected essays, in several languages.

New books will appear either as individual titles or in one of the series that the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme and the Cambridge University Press have jointly agreed to publish. All books published jointly by the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme and the Cambridge University Press will be distributed by the Press throughout the world.


Les ouvrages paraissent soit isolément, soit dans l’une des séries que la Maison des Sciences de l’Homme et Cambridge University Press ont convenu de publier ensemble. La distribution dans le monde entier des titres ainsi publiés conjointement par les deux établissements est assurée par Cambridge University Press.
Contents

List of contributors
Preface

Introduction
JOHN V. MURRA and NATHAN WACHTEL

Part I: Ecology and society
1. The tropical Andes: a changing mosaic
   OLIVIER DOLLFUS
   11
2. The evolution of a valley: population and resources of Tarapacá over a millennium
   LAUTARO NÚÑEZ
   23
3. “Horizons” in Andean archaeology
   ANA MARÍA LORANDI
   35

Part II: The ethnic group and the state
4. The expansion of the Inka state: armies, war, and rebellions
   JOHN V. MURRA
   49
5. Storage, supply, and redistribution in the economy of the Inka state
   CRAIG MORRIS
   59
6. The extraction of precious metals at the time of the Inka
   JEAN BERTHELOT
   69
7. Vertical politics on the Inka frontier
   FRANK SALOMON
   89

Part III: Systems of classification
8. Some aspects of the Inka kinship system
   FLOYD G. LOUNSBURY
   121
9. The classification and naming of South American camelids
   JORGE A. FLORES OCHOA
   137
CONTENTS

10. The semiology of Andean textiles: the talegas of Isluga
   VERÓNICA CERECEDA

Part IV: Symbolic representations and practices

11. Inka dynasty and irrigation: another look at Andean
    concepts of history
    R. T. ZUIDEMA

12. Urco and uma: Aymara concepts of space
    THÉRÈSE BOUESSE-CASSAGNE

13. Mirrors and maize: the concept of yanantin among the
    Macha of Bolivia
    TRISTAN PLATT

14. From asymmetry to triangle: symbolic transformations
    in northern Potosí
    OLIVIA HARRIS

Part V: From ethnic polities to communities

15. Men of the water: the Uru problem (sixteenth and
    seventeenth centuries)
    NATHAN WACHTEL

16. The ethnic groups in the valleys of Larecaja: from
    descent to residence
    THIERRY Saignes

17. The Andean community today
    ANTOINETTE MOLİNÉ-FIORAVANTI

Bibliography of published sources

Index

149
175
177
201
228
260
281
283
311
342
359
377
Contributors

JEAN BERTHELOT
Researcher
Institut de l’Amérique Latine
Paris, France

THÉRÈSE BOUYSSÉ-CASSAGNE
Chargée de Recherche
Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique
Paris, France

VERÓNICA CERECEDA
Researcher
Museo de Arte Precolombino
Santiago, Chile

OLIVIER DOLLFUS
Professor of Geography
University of Paris – VII
Paris, France

JORGE A. FLORES OCHOA
Professor of Anthropology
Universidad del Cusco
Cusco, Peru

OLIVIA HARRIS
Senior Lecturer in Anthropology
Goldsmiths College, University of London
London, England

ANA MARÍA LORANDI
Director
Department of Anthropology
Universidad de Buenos Aires
Buenos Aires, Argentina

FLOYD G. LOUNSURY
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

ANTOINETTE MOLINÉ-FIORAVANTI
Chargée de Recherche
Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique
Paris, France

CRAIG MORRIS
Chief Curator of Anthropology
American Museum of Natural History
New York, New York

JOHN V. MURRA
President
Institute of Andean Research
New York, New York

LAUTARO NÚÑEZ
Researcher
Instituto de Investigaciones Arqueológicas
Universidad del Norte
San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

TRISTAN PLATT
Researcher
Biblioteca Nacional
Sucre, Bolivia
viii CONTRIBUTORS

JACQUES REVEL
Directeur d’Etudes
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
Paris, France

THIERRY SAIGNES
Chargé de recherche
Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique
Paris, France

FRANK SALOMON
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

NATHAN WACHTEL
Directeur d’Etudes
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
Paris, France

R. T. ZUIDEMA
Professor of Anthropology
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois
Preface

In recent years studies of Andean civilizations by native scholars have flourished in the Andean homelands. Overseas scholars have also lent a hand. Although events in all five Andean republics have warranted curiosity about current developments, the more notable feature of this scholarship has been the growing number of inquiries about the Andean achievement before 1532. The dense populations in a precapitalist society, the remarkable productivity of high-altitude crops and the effect of high-altitude biology, unparalleled textile arts and the vast installations for weaving manufactures, the native perception and use of the southern sky, religious and political symbolism – all of these are privileged topics of current scholarly concern.

Beyond the academic community, many others have become active in defense of the Andean patrimony. Andean camellids and their pastures, the cultivation and use of the coca leaf, the terracing and irrigation of the mountainsides – all these are threatened by foreign intervention. Another expression of this defense is a growing preoccupation with the literary future of the Aymara and Quechua languages, spoken by some 10 million citizens of the five republics, at a time when the mass media have discovered that these speakers are also a market.

In 1984, the Facultad Latino-Americana de Ciencias Sociales of Quito began to offer a two-year program leading to a master’s degree in Andean history – an initiative without precedent. Graduates of universities in all five Andean republics, and some from elsewhere, applied; and about thirty received scholarships supporting a year of formal class work with an international faculty drawn from three continents. A second year of thesis research in the field or the archives will follow.

The editors of the special issue of *Annales* in which the essays in this book were originally published in French (in 1978) did not have the Quito group in mind when they assembled this collection of articles, but we welcome them aboard.* A new threshold in Andean history will have been reached once the full participation of Argentinian, Bolivian, Chilean, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian scholars is ensured.

*The translations for this English edition were made by Susan Drucker Brown, J. V. Murra, and Tristan Platt.
X  PREFACE

Of the seventeen authors represented in this collection, nine are Europeans, four come from the Andes, and four are from the United States. No attempt was made to guarantee coverage of the entire spectrum of Andean studies: Some thirty scholars known for their current contributions to Andean history were invited to contribute essays reflecting ongoing research. Some of the chapters are archaeological; some are based on primary written sources; others draw on contemporary ethnographic fieldwork. All seventeen authors have in common an awareness of the benefits of combining field research, familiarity with Andean languages, and personal experience with the remarkable continuities that link present-day Andean practice and thought with the pre-European past.

We hope the reader will find persuasive our effort to blend anthropological and historical tactics. It is commonplace to deplore the absence of an Andean version of events and institutions by referring to the scarcity of vernacular texts. We try to demonstrate that by combining the several approaches used in the present work, we also intend to share in the Andean vision and to suggest questions that could extend the range of its voice.

John V. Murra
Institute of Andean Research