Originally published in Bolivia with a larger collection of essays, this edited volume addresses a very important topic: the involvement of indigenous peoples in the southern Andes (southern Peru and Bolivia) and European-introduced market economies. Essays in the volume range from pre-hispanic topics to current anthropological studies. This volume contains the following essays:


2. John Murra, "Did Tribute and Markets Prevail before the European Invasion?"

3. Steve Stern, "The Variety and Ambiguity of Native American Intervention in European Colonial Markets"


5. Susan Ramirez, "Exchange and Markets in the Sixteenth Century: A View from the North"

6. Thierry Saignes, "Indian Migration and Social Change in Seventeenth-Century Charcas"

7. Enrique Tandeter, et al., "Indians in Late Colonial Markets: Sources and Numbers"


9. Tristan Platt, "Ethnic Calendars and Market Interventions among the Ayllus of Lipes During the Nineteenth Century"

10. Olivia Harris, "The Sources and Meanings of Money: Beyond the Market Paradigm in an Ayllu of Northern Potosi"

11. Marisol de la Cadena, "Women are More Indian: Ethnicity and Gender in a Community Near Cuzco"

12. Olivia Harris, "Ethnic Identity and Market Relations: Indians and Mestizos in the Andes"

As with any essay collection, the contributions to this volume are uneven in quality and take different methodological approaches. There are several major themes that include the nature of pre-Hispanic exchanges and the early intervention of indigenous peoples in evolving European markets; migrations within the Andes, and the involvement in different ways of Indians in markets at the end of the colonial period, in the nineteenth century, and today. The central theme is well developed in the book and is of major concern for specialists in Latin American history. In terms of historiographic context, the contributors to this volume clearly show that indigenous peoples were able to choose the ways in which they entered the European market economy and they reject an older vision of indigenous peasants as passive actors. Although focusing on the southern Andes, the essays in this volume have implications for all students of Latin American rural history.

Several essays in particular highlight the complexities of indigenous participation in market economies. In a stimulating theoretical essay, Steve Stern offers different perspectives for understanding indigenous involvements in markets. Stern also calls for more studies that compare the Andean region with other parts of Latin America, Africa, or Asia (88-89). Curiously, though, one
recent comparative article that deals with a topic ad-
dressed in the volume—mestizaje—(Olivia Harris’s essay
on Indians and Mestizos) does not appear in the bibli-
ography.(1) Susan Ramirez offers a well-written analysis
of the emergence of markets in northern Peru. Tristan
Platt’s essay explains the economy of the Lipes ayllus in
southwestern Bolivia in the nineteenth century and how
the ayllu members fit a mixed economy based on the sup-
ply of salt to local silver mines, trade, and the transport-
ing of goods into the semi-annual tribute calendar. The
essay by the late Thierry Saignes points to the importance
of internal migration. Finally the contributions of Olivia
Harris and Marisol de la Cadena document current issues
related to Indians and markets.

This book reflects a somewhat updated state of the
field in the early 1980s when most of the essays were
written. Although strong on the social aspects of indige-
nous involvements in markets, there are also some signif-
icient gaps that are not addressed. For example, there is
no discussion of Indians as laborers on haciendas, Indian-
hacienda competition for land and water, or the evolu-
tion of land markets and indigenous participation in land
markets. Thousands of Indians labored on haciendas as
either permanent or seasonal workers, as service ten-
ants, day laborers, or share-croppers/tenants. Conflicts
over land and water resources help, among other things,
to document power relationships and the functioning of
royal and later republican Indian policies. Indian in-
volve-ment in land markets, particularly in the nineteen-
teenth century, at times defined conventional stereotypes of in-
digenous behavior. For example, there are cases of ayl-
lus or individual ayllu members buying non-Indian lands
to supplement their land base. Although liberalism in
the nineteenth century is mentioned by several authors,
there is little discussion of how liberal policies modified
local and regional markets and Indian involvement in
those markets. Recent studies, some not included in
the bibliography or Larson’s introductory essay, address
these important issues (2).

The book has a decided bias towards the colonial pe-
riod which might have been addressed by including sev-
eral more essays on the nineteenth and twentieth cen-
turies. An essay on changing government policies vis a
vis the indigenous populations of Peru and Bolivia would
also have been useful. There is a tendency to ignore both
the intent and implementation of laws designed to regu-
late relations between the government and Indians, and
Indians and non-Indians. For example, a discussion of
Bolivian community land policy, especially Melgarejo’s
efforts to sell community lands in the 1860s and the 1874
law of ex-vinculacion, would help explain changing In-
dian responses to markets during that period. Finally,
I was a bit disappointed that a number of essays from
the 1987 Spanish language version of the book were not
included in this edition. They would have provided a
bit more balance. In particular I am thinking of Erick
Langer’s essay on Indian involvement in the grain mar-
ket, an issue not addressed in any of the essays in this
dition, Ann Zulowski on mine labor in Oruro, and Lil-
lian Lewinski’s essay on the Oruro market at the end of
the colonial period.

On balance, this book is worth reading as an intro-
duction to the study of indigenous involvement in mar-
ket economies in one Latin American region. It contains
insights and methodological approaches that could be ap-
plied to the study of rural history in other Latin American
regions. It is suitable for use by graduate students and ad-
vanced undergraduates, and in paperback at a fairly rea-
sonable price so that it could be used for classes. The bib-
liography and introductory and concluding essays pro-
vide a good beginning for students and specialists want-
ing to learn more about the history of the Andean region,
although they are incomplete for the literature published
after 1987. The maps are well done and add to the essays.

Notes

1. Robert Jackson and Gregory Maddox, “The Cre-
ation of Identity: Colonial Society in Bolivia and Tan-
zania,” Comparative Studies in Society and History

2. See, for example, Robert H. Jackson, “Evolu-
cion y persistencia del colonaje en las haciendas de
and Robert H. Jackson, “El liberalismo y el problema de
la tierra en Bolivia (1825-1920),” Siglo XIX 5:10 (1990),
9-32; Robert H. Jackson, Regional Markets and Agrarian
Al-

Copyright (c) 1996 by H-Net, all rights reserved. This
work may be copied for non-profit educational use if
proper credit is given to the author and the list. For other
permission, please contact H-Net@H-Net.MSU.EDU.

If there is additional discussion of this review, you may access it through the network, at:
Citation: Robert Jackson. Review of Larson, Brooke; Harris, Olivia, eds., *Ethnicity, Markets and Migration in the Andes: At the Crossroads of History and Anthropology*. H-LatAm, H-Net Reviews. April, 1996.

URL: http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=360

Copyright © 1996 by H-Net, all rights reserved. H-Net permits the redistribution and reprinting of this work for nonprofit, educational purposes, with full and accurate attribution to the author, web location, date of publication, originating list, and H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online. For any other proposed use, contact the Reviews editorial staff at hbooks@mail.h-net.msu.edu.