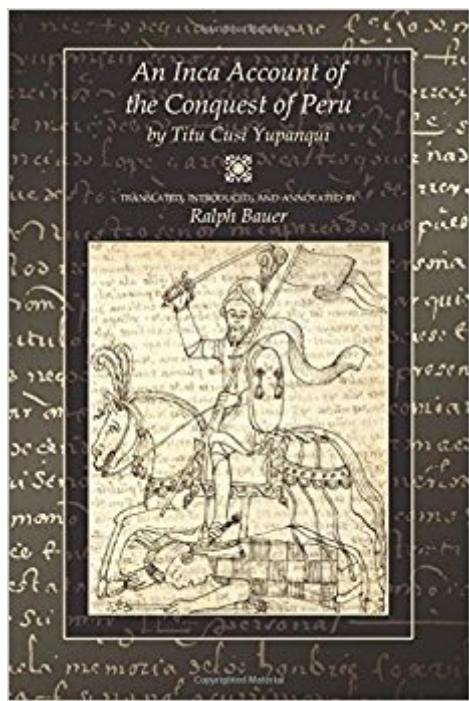


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# An Inca Account Of The Conquest Of Peru



## Synopsis

Available in English for the first time, *An Inca Account of the Conquest of Peru* is a firsthand account of the Spanish invasion, narrated in 1570 by Diego de Castro Titu Cusi Yupanqui - the penultimate ruler of the Inca dynasty - to a Spanish missionary and transcribed by a mestizo assistant. The resulting hybrid document offers an Inca perspective on the Spanish conquest of Peru, filtered through the monk and his scribe. Titu Cusi tells of his father's maltreatment at the hands of the conquerors; his father's ensuing military campaigns, withdrawal, and murder; and his own succession as ruler. Although he continued to resist Spanish attempts at "pacification," Titu Cusi entertained Spanish missionaries, converted to Christianity, and then, most importantly, narrated his story of the conquest to enlighten Emperor Phillip II about the behavior of the emperor's subjects in Peru. This vivid narrative illuminates the Incan view of the Spanish invaders and offers an important account of indigenous resistance, accommodation, change, and survival in the face of the European conquest. Informed by literary, historical, and anthropological scholarship, Bauer's introduction points out the hybrid elements of Titu Cusi's account, revealing how it merges native Andean and Spanish rhetorical and cultural practices. Supported in part by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This unique document, which provides a rare indigenous vision of the Spanish conquest of Peru and its aftermath, is now available in English thanks to the scholarly work of Ralph Bauer. . . . Bauer's scholarship, and his mastery of the topic, is reflected in the fine translation as well as in the

extensive introduction and substantial set of footnotes. The translation is not only highly accurate, but also modernized in a way that will make the account easily accessible to specialists, students of Latin American history, as well as the general public interested in the Incas. The introduction provides information on the specific social conditions under which the document was written and insights into the historical personages mentioned in the text. . . . The value of the publication is further increased with the addition of a glossary, a well-developed index, and an appealing overall book design. This publication is a pleasure to the eye as well as to the mind.";Journal of Anthropological Research" Bauer's annotated translation of the account provided by Titu Cusi (1538-1570) to defend his claim to royal Inca descent and to justify his opposition to the Spanish invaders makes available for the first time in English a full-length and highly accessible version of this important document. The account will help students and teachers of Latin American history and historians in general better understand the complex and incomplete process of the Spanish Conquest in Peru. Titu Cusi's text and Bauer's ample introduction confront readers with the significant divisions, competing factions, and surprising alliances that appeared among both Inca nobles and Spanish invaders as they battled for power and wealth in the Andes.";The Americas" This translation, available for the first time in its entirety, takes a critical look at how the Incan society challenged the Spanish conquest." ;Colorado Endowment for the Humanities 2005 Publication Prize Committee

Ralph Bauer is an associate professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the author of *The Cultural Geography of Colonial American Literatures*.

I greatly enjoyed this translation and the detailed footnotes. The account by Titu Cusi, as a Christian king reaching out to another Christian king (who was also the "Holy" Roman Emperor), is poignant. He seeks to explain his people's political and cultural struggle with emissaries of Spain that had not lived up to the expectations of civilized warfare or conduct. The insight into how a "second-generation" convert dealt with his own people's past and how that fit into his vision of the Spanish Kingdom is fascinating. There is tragedy and hope in the account, in equal measure. It is perhaps unsurprising that Titu Cusi' efforts were, ultimately, in vain. His kingdom did fall. And the King of Spain may never have even read Titu Cusi's account. The Incan ruler saw both the power and the weakness of religion. recognizing that pure physical power could no longer secure an independent role for the Incans, he mounted a legalistic defense of his perogatives and relied on the rhetoric of Christianity to seek a just resolution (from his point of view anyway). Even though the

economics and politics of Conquest did not favor him, the attempt was noble. It was somewhat like reading the losing brief in a Supreme Court case. Almost simultaneously I was reading a bilingual edition edited by Catherine Julien, which was also published at about the same time. It is ironic that Mr. Bauer's extremely high quality translation would come out so near in time to Ms. Julien's. They are both excellent books. If you have the opportunity to buy both, I would recommend you do so, because they can be read together and the editorial comments then seem almost like a conversation between two scholars that you get to listen in on.

It's amazing that the Western Hemisphere has seen the destruction or near destruction of so many civilizations in so (relatively) short a time span, and yet so few people in the Americas know or even care to know what happened. This book is a great primary source account of what could only be described as the end of one era and the beginning of another for Indigenous South Americans. It includes a timeline of events, several historic [albeit not entirely accurate] maps and engravings from the time period, and most importantly, the words of an Indigenous account. Words and phrases specific to the original language are given additional clarification by the translator. Ultimately, much remains unknown about the Inca. But what we will discover of them in the future relies entirely on what they left us 500 years ago, and what Spanish conquistadors, grave robbers, and time have left undamaged. We should consider this account and anything else that survives that gauntlet of destruction a treasure. A great reference for personal or academic use. Glad it's available.

This autobiography of a fictional high placed and well-connected Inca administrator caught my attention from the very beginning. It's a mostly well-researched novel, with a realistic, fast-paced and terse narrative. We get acquainted with many imperial institutions and the intricacies of the running of the empire by the Inca elite, even of the use of a language written with cords and knots, a rather debated issue as the author dutifully acknowledges. The journey to and prolonged stay of the narrator in the southern part of the Tawantinsuyo is sketchy, it seems as if the only thing the author knows of the Collasuyo is pretty much that the Maule river is its Southern limit. Then a sudden journey made to the Antisuyo, the eastern jungles, it utterly improbable in its justification and reads like a Tintin comic. Our hero really did not need to be sent to all corners of the empire, his many adventures and vicissitudes in central Peru are enough fascinating. The author could have made more of the gradual approach of the Spanish conquistadores, but when the final drama unfolds the narrative commands one's attention; then the end comes with an unexpected situation and is very successful. Very useful appendix with critical remarks, those interested in fiction dealing

with the Inca will surely enjoy this book.

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