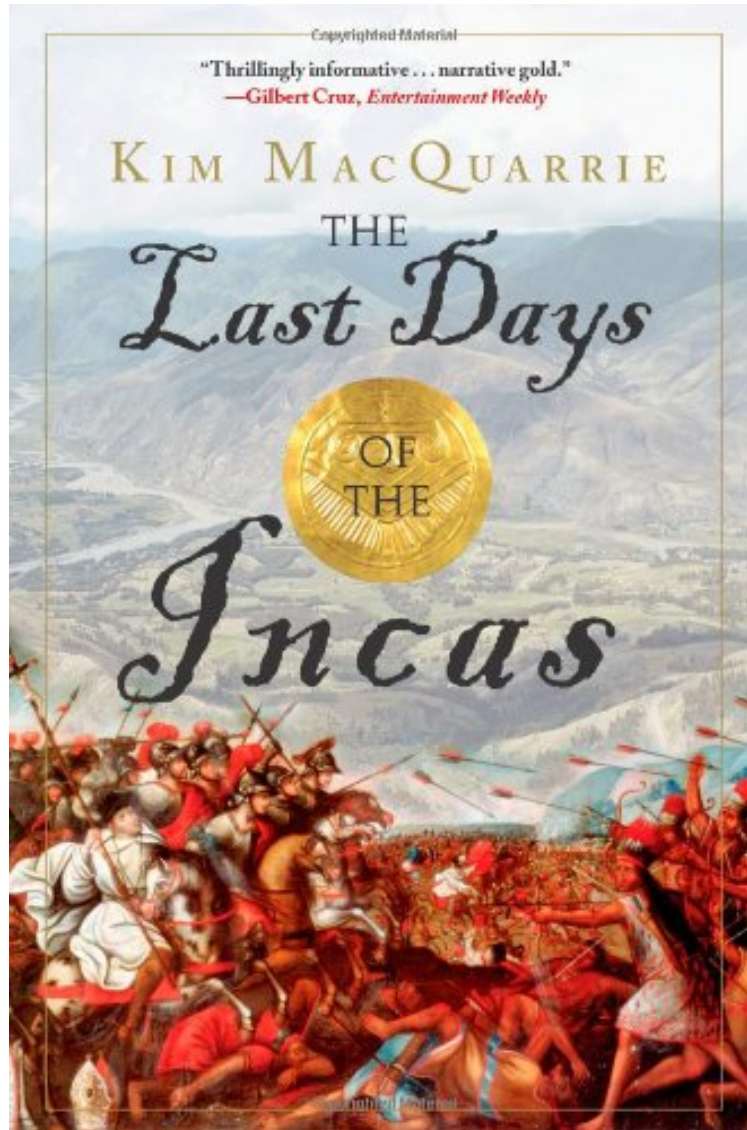


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The Last Days of the Incas

Kim MacQuarrie

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Kim MacQuarrie : The Last Days of the Incas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Days of the Incas:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy Read That Fills in the Gaps of Our History Lessons in SchoolBy Michael A. CaninoAwesome book. Does an excellent job of chronicling their history. My wife and I read it during a trip to Peru to trek and visit the Inca city of Macchu Picchu. Even though the city plays a small part in the book and history it was just neat to have the perspective of the book in mind as we visited Lima, Cusco and the ancient

city. The writer's narrative was both engaging and clear so you walk away from the book with a very intimate understanding of the psychology of both sides of the perspective. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Review for a Trip to Peru By Michael P. McCullough I read this in preparation for an upcoming trip to Peru; a decent non-fiction book about the Spanish conquest of the Incas, and the discovery of Machu Picchu and Vilcabamba centuries later. The first half of the book featured the Conquistadors versus the Incas - and it was difficult to decide which side to root for as both groups were dreadful. Ultimately I decided on the Incas because, after all, they were there first, and the Spaniards' willingness to mass murder for gold was inconceivable. But the Incas weren't much better - a relatively small group that subjugated millions of weaker neighbors. At any rate the Spaniards were certainly impressive warriors, using their technological advantages to win battles where they were outnumbered two-hundred to one. The diseases they inadvertently brought with them were to their advantage as well. The second part of the book covers Hiram Bingham's discovery of Machu Picchu (I thought **Turn Right at Machu Picchu** by Mark Adams was a more enjoyable read) and the kooky Gene Savoy's "discovery" of Vilcabamba - the lost final capital of the Incas. A large portion of the second half of the book is simply footnotes. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Valuable Read Before Hiking The Salkantay Trail By jt kalnay I bought this book as part of my pre-reading before heading to Peru for a couple weeks of trekking followed by a visit to Machu Picchu. The book was full of facts and figures and detailed accounts from the Spanish point of view. Perhaps because the Inca were conquered by the Spanish the cliché that "History Is Written By The Victors" is evident in this work. The only surviving accounts of the period are from Spain... The author explains clearly that the only primary sources are from the victors, and that even those may have been fanciful accounts by individuals who were more interested in their own self-aggrandizement to the Spanish Crown than in accuracy. I enjoyed the book and it was a valuable read before going to Peru.

The epic story of the fall of the Inca Empire to Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in the aftermath of a bloody civil war, and the recent discovery of the lost guerrilla capital of the Incas, Vilcabamba, by three American explorers. In 1532, the fifty-four-year-old Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro led a force of 167 men, including his four brothers, to the shores of Peru. Unbeknownst to the Spaniards, the Inca rulers of Peru had just fought a bloody civil war in which the emperor Atahualpa had defeated his brother Huascar. Pizarro and his men soon clashed with Atahualpa and a huge force of Inca warriors at the Battle of Cajamarca. Despite being outnumbered by more than two hundred to one, the Spaniards prevailed due largely to their horses, their steel armor and swords, and their tactic of surprise. They captured and imprisoned Atahualpa. Although the Inca emperor paid an enormous ransom in gold, the Spaniards executed him anyway. The following year, the Spaniards seized the Inca capital of Cuzco, completing their conquest of the largest native empire the New World has ever known. Peru was now a Spanish colony, and the conquistadors were wealthy beyond their wildest dreams. But the Incas did not submit willingly. A young Inca emperor, the brother of Atahualpa, soon led a massive rebellion against the Spaniards, inflicting heavy casualties and nearly wiping out the conquerors. Eventually, however, Pizarro and his men forced the emperor to abandon the Andes and flee to the Amazon. There, he established a hidden capital, called Vilcabamba, only recently rediscovered by a trio of colorful American explorers. Although the Incas fought a deadly, thirty-six-year-long guerrilla war, the Spanish ultimately captured the last Inca emperor and vanquished the native resistance.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . With vivid and energetic prose, Emmy Awardwinner and author MacQuarrie (From the Andes to the) re-creates the 16th-century struggle for what would become modern-day Peru. The Incas ruled a 2,500-mile-long empire, but Spanish explorers, keen to enrich the crown and spread the Catholic Church, eventually destroyed Inca society. MacQuarrie, who writes with just the right amount of drama ("After the interpreter finished delivering the speech, silence once again gripped the square"), is to be commended for giving a balanced account of those events. This long and stylish book doesn't end with the final 1572 collapse of the Incas. Fast-forwarding to the 20th century, MacQuarrie tells the surprisingly fascinating story of scholars' evolving interpretations of Inca remains. In 1911, a young Yale professor of Latin American history named Hiram Bingham identified Machu Picchu as the nerve center of the empire. Few questioned Bingham's theory until after his death in 1956; in the 1960s Gene Savoy discovered the real Inca center of civilization, Vilcabamba. Although MacQuarrie dedicates just a few chapters to modern research, the archeologists who made the key discoveries emerge as well-developed characters, and the tale of digging up the empire is as riveting as the more familiar history of Spanish conquest. Bw illus., maps. (May 29) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The Incas were members of the group of Quechuan peoples of Peru, who established an empire from northern Ecuador to central Chile before the Spanish conquest. MacQuarrie reminds his readers that nearly 500 years ago, 168 Spaniards arrived in what is now Peru and collided with an Incan empire of 10 million people. The author, who lived in Peru for five years, chronicles the adventures of Hiram Bingham, who, in 1911, discovered Machu Picchu and believed it was the Incan capital. MacQuarrie also recounts the search by Gene Savoy, the American explorer who found Vilcabamba, the true capital. He describes the adventures of other conquistadors and puppet kings, the rebellion of 1535, and other military attempts to conquer the Indians. MacQuarrie, a four-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, researched Spanish and

Incan chronicles. The result is a first-rate reference work of ambitious scope that will most likely stand as the definitive account of these people. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A welcome addition to the literature Lively and dramatic The Washington Post "Vivid...energetic...fascinating...riveting"-- Publisher's Weekly, STARRED "In this thrilling informative work...MacQuarrie also manages to spin the oft-told story of the discovery of Machu Picchu into narrative gold." --Entertainment Weekly "Thoroughly and entertainingly recounted...MacQuarrie excels." --Forbes "A first-rate...work of ambitious scope that will most likely stand as the definitive account of these people." Booklist "Fascinating and enthralling...the direct narrative brings alive people who existed 500 years ago. Truly a work worth Inca gold." -- The History Magazine "The Last Days of the Incas reads like a novel...a delightful, eminently readable account." -- St. Petersburg Times "Hooks the reader right away with its flowing, novelistic language...a ripping good yarn. And [it] would make a great movie, too." -- The Roanoke Times Kim MacQuarrie's detailed, gripping account of the destruction wreaked by Spanish conquistadors following their arrival in the Incan empire in 1532 is a stand-out read. It's compelling, brutal and hugely revealing about the plight of the Incan people. History Revealed A skillful mix of extensive research, insightful analysis, and masterful storytelling. -- CHOICE (Current s for Academic Libraries) Sensitive heart-wrenching astounding -- The South American Explorer Magazine "This is an excellent book...a detailed, highly accurate and thoroughly engaging narrative of these events" -- Dr. Brian S Bauer, Inca specialist, University of Illinois at Chicago, The Historian "This is a wonderful book about one of the most epic struggles of history, a conquest that transformed a continent." -- Wade Davis, anthropologist and author of One River and Into the Silence "A colorful, superbly crafted historical narrative that masterfully demonstrates that when cultures collide, unforeseen and tragic consequences follow...also a memorable adventure story, revealing the modern Indiana Jones-type characters that unearthed, and continue to discover, lost parts of the Inca Empire. The Last Days of the Incas is historical writing at its best." -- Broughton Coburn, author of Everest: Mountain Without Mercy "The Last Days of the Incas surprises, delivers history, and reads like a great yarn. I've read yards of books on the Incas, but this one took me out of the classroom and into that long-lost world." -- Keith Bellows, Editor in Chief, National Geographic Traveler "The story of the European conquest of the fascinating and fabulously rich empire of the Incas is one of history's most engaging and tragic episodes...Thanks to The Last Days of the Incas, Kim MacQuarrie's superbly written new treatment of the subject, it is now accessible to the much broader audience it deserves." -- Vincent Lee, author of Forgotten Vilcabamba