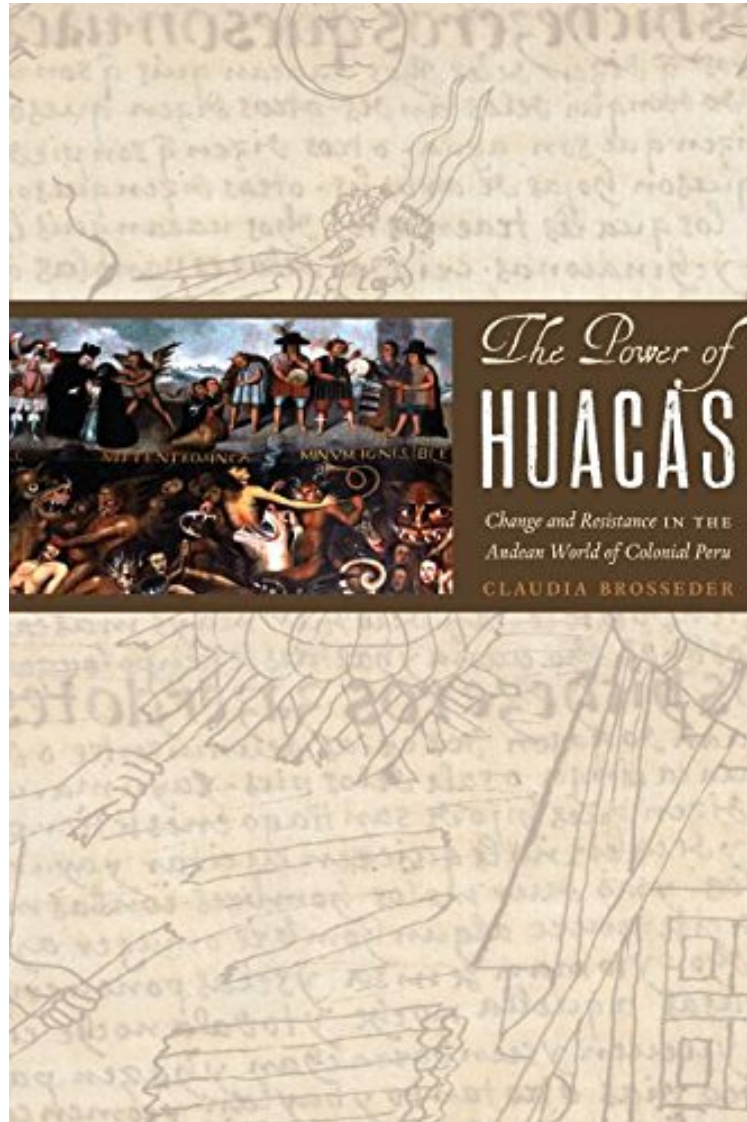


(Free pdf) The Power of Huacas: Change and Resistance in the Andean World of Colonial Peru

The Power of Huacas: Change and Resistance in the Andean World of Colonial Peru

Claudia Brosseder

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Power of Huacas: Change and Resistance in the Andean World of Colonial Peru:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Spanish couldn't stamp out Latin American customs. By B. Wolinsky Claudia Brosseder's book portrays pre-Columbian religion as the unifying factor among Peruvian natives. The term Huaca (waka in the original language) means sacred object or some inanimate structure, like a burial mound,

where spirits were thought to reside. Its not exclusive to Peru; other cultures, like Japanese Shinto, had similar animistic beliefs. But in this case, it was more significant because it allowed the people to keep some independence under colonialism. From the start, Brosseder makes clear that Perus natives werent all swayed by Christianity. It was introduced by their Spanish Conquistadores, and since the natives had no rights, Christianity didnt seem very welcoming either. Indigenous religion continued into the 1600s, but the Jesuits made efforts to lure the people away from it. Unlike the Franciscans, the Jesuits permitted local religious customs along with Christian ones, so they werent entirely averse to animistic beliefs. However, they did use sneaky tactics with the natives, such as offering rewards to those that were cooperative with the missionaries and using them to influence others. The author discusses other reasons for Spains proselytizing in Peru, such as the protestant versus Catholic conflict in Europe. With Catholic Spain fighting Protestant-led forces in the Netherlands, perhaps Spains Bishops saw Latin America as a recruiting ground. But at the same time, Spain was also the nation that had a violent Inquisition, and that didnt offer much encouragement. If Spanish speaking Priests wanted to stamp out the belief in demons, then violent sermons would not have been much help.

The role of the religious specialist in Andean cultures of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries was a complicated one, balanced between local traditions and the culture of the Spanish. In "The Power of" Huacas, Claudia Brosseder reconstructs the dynamic interaction between religious specialists and the colonial world that unfolded around them, considering how the discourse about religion shifted on both sides of the Spanish and Andean relationship in complex and unexpected ways. In "The Power of" Huacas, Brosseder examines evidence of transcultural exchange through religious history, anthropology, and cultural studies. Taking Andean religious specialists--or "hechizeros" (sorcerers) in colonial Spanish terminology--as a starting point, she considers the different ways in which Andeans and Spaniards thought about key cultural and religious concepts. Unlike previous studies, this important book fully outlines both sides of the colonial relationship; Brosseder uses extensive archival research in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Italy, and the United States, as well as careful analysis of archaeological and art historical objects, to present the Andean religious worldview of the period on equal footing with that of the Spanish. Throughout the colonial period, she argues, Andean religious specialists retained their own unique logic, which encompassed specific ideas about holiness, nature, sickness, and social harmony. "The Power of" Huacas deepens our understanding of the complexities of assimilation, showing that, within the maelstrom of transcultural exchange in the Spanish Americas, European paradigms ultimately changed more than Andean ones.

"Brosseder combines insights from history, anthropology, and art history (how depictions of saints, of confession, of hell, changed over time) to create a compelling narrative that is as powerful as it is surprising. . . . Very few books attempt to do what the author has done here, that is, establish what were the parameters of the discussion between European and native perceptions and how they influenced one another." (Tamar Herzog, Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, Harvard University, and author of *Defining Nations: Immigrants and Citizens in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America* and *Upholding Justice: State, Law, and the Penal System in Quito* and coeditor of *Polycentric Monarchies: How Did Early Modern Spain and Portugal Achieve and Maintain a Global Hegemony?*) "Claudia Brosseder is an important new voice in South American studies. Her tour-de-force, *The Power of Huacas*, explores the interactions between Andean shamans and Jesuit priests in colonial Peru through the lens of the evolving European concepts of witchcraft. . . . Brosseders new understanding of colonial Andean religion is convincing, innovative, and thoroughly researched." (Sabine Hyland, Associate Professor of Anthropology, St. Norbert College, and author of *Gods of the Andes: An Early Jesuit Account of Inca Religion and Andean Christianity*, *The Quito Manuscript: An Inca History Preserved by Fernando de Montesinos*, and *The Jesuit and the Incas: The Extraordinary Life of Padre Blas Valera, S.J.*) "Brosseder combines insights from history, anthropology, and art history (how depictions of saints, of confession, of hell, changed over time) to create a compelling narrative that is as powerful as it is surprising. . . . Very few books attempt to do what the author has done here, that is, establish what were the parameters of the discussion between European and native perceptions and how they influenced one another." (Tamar Herzog, Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, Harvard University, and author of *Defining Nations: Immigrants and Citizens in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America* and *Upholding Justice: State, Law, and the Penal System in Quito* and coeditor of *Polycentric Monarchies: How Did Early*) "Claudia Brosseder is an important new voice in South American studies. Her tour-de-force, *The Power of Huacas*, explores the interactions between Andean shamans and Jesuit priests in colonial Peru through the lens of the evolving European concepts of witchcraft. . . . Brosseders new understanding of colonial Andean religion is convincing, innovative, and thoroughly researched." (Sabine Hyland, Associate Professor of Anthropology, St. Norbert College, and author of *Gods of the Andes: An Early Jesuit Account of Inca Religion and Andean Christianity*, *The Quito Manuscript: An Inca History Preserved by Fernando de Montesinos*, and *The Jesuit and the Incas: The Extraordinary Life*) About the Author CLAUDIA BROSEDER is a Privatdozentin at Munich University and holds a research position in the Excellence Center for Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University. She is the author of *Im Bann der Sterne*. Caspar Peucer, Philipp

Melanchthon und andere Wittenberger Astrologen.