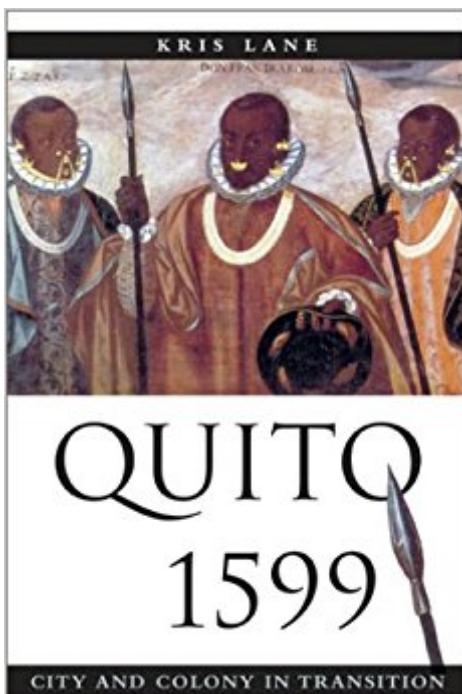


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Quito 1599: City And Colony In Transition (DiAlogos Series)



Synopsis

Quito has always been one of the most enigmatic of colonial Spanish American cities. The history of its enormous hinterland, only a fraction of which forms the modern Republic of Ecuador, is even less known. This engaging book takes the watershed year 1599 as a starting point for a provocative reinterpretation of the history of Quito, city and colony. The result is a lively narrative that is also an original inquiry into the driving forces behind sixteenth-century Spanish colonialism. In six overlapping topical narratives Lane brings to life a place wracked by civil disturbances, shipwrecks, indigenous uprisings, pirate attacks, maroon intransigence, urban decadence, failed missionary endeavors, sharp economic reorientations, and wily and unpredictable subaltern adaptation and resistance. Drawing from a wealth of recent research on the colonial north Andes and on more than seven years of study in the archives of Ecuador, Colombia, and Spain, Lane presents rich discoveries of interest to economic historians, including a previously unknown gold boom; however, his primary interest is people. He explores the ways both individuals and groups--shipwreck victims, slaves, laborers, merchants, traders--faced obstacles and seized (or missed) opportunities, showing readers not only the basic facts and major themes of colonial life but also the influence and outcome of individual hopes and fears among people from a multitude of races and ethnicities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"What a fascinating mosaic Lane has left for readers to ponder." "This book is much like Quito itself, complex and layered with meaning." . . . an engaging study that will appeal to a wide-ranging

audience interested in the Atlantic world and colonialism. " "Beautifully written and often thought provoking. It shows, as Lane concludes, the common incongruity between the complex paths of human lives and the major currents of history. " "Lane brings together social and economic data and narratives to flesh out the experiences of people from various social backgrounds. More than a snapshot of one particular year, this book includes multiple images that, taken together, present the social and economic realities of late-sixteenth- and early-seventeenth-century Quito."

Explores the dramatic early colonial history of Ecuador and southern Colombia, fleshing out everyday life and individual exploits.

Yes, this book was required for my Colonial Latin America class, but I enjoyed it. As my professor put it, what happened in Quito in the sixteenth century went against the norms of the time for Latin America. I'm glad I had to read this book because I might not have picked it up otherwise, but let me just offer this piece of advice, read this book whether it's for class or not. You won't regret it.

What a great work of history! This book was honestly like a breath of fresh air. I read so many histories, and this one really stood out to me. The author weaves a complex and engaging story through the various narratives, and ends up painting a very interesting picture of colonial society in Quito. Kris Lane presents some very interesting research and knows how to tell a good story. This book is one of the better histories I have read in the last several years, and I have read many.

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