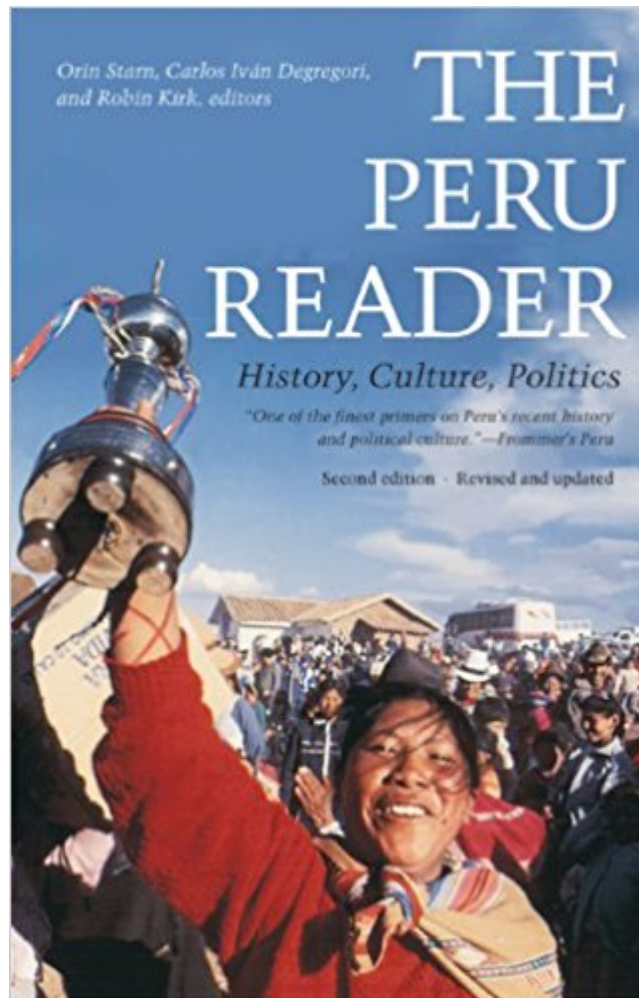




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# The Peru Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



## Synopsis

Sixteenth-century Spanish soldiers described Peru as a land filled with gold and silver, a place of untold wealth. Nineteenth-century travelers wrote of soaring Andean peaks plunging into luxuriant canyons of orchids, pythons, and jaguars. The early-twentieth-century American adventurer Hiram Bingham told of the raging rivers and the wild jungles he traversed on his way to rediscovering the "Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu. Seventy years later, news crews from ABC and CBS traveled to Peru to report on merciless terrorists, starving peasants, and Colombian drug runners in the "white gold" rush of the coca trade. As often as not, Peru has been portrayed in broad extremes: as the land of the richest treasures, the bloodiest conquest, the most poignant ballads, and the most violent revolutionaries. This revised and updated second edition of the bestselling Peru Reader offers a deeper understanding of the complex country that lies behind these claims. Unparalleled in scope, the volume covers Peru's history from its extraordinary pre-Columbian civilizations to its citizens' twenty-first-century struggles to achieve dignity and justice in a multicultural nation where Andean, African, Indian, Asian, and European traditions meet. The collection presents a vast array of essays, folklore, historical documents, poetry, songs, short stories, autobiographical accounts, and photographs. Works by contemporary Peruvian intellectuals and politicians appear alongside accounts of those whose voices are less often heard—peasants, street vendors, maids, Indian Indians, and African-Peruvians. Including some of the most insightful pieces of Western journalism and scholarship about Peru, the selections provide the traveler and specialist alike with a thorough introduction to the country's astonishing past and challenging present.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A livelier, more literate introduction to a foreign world could not be hoped for. A Peruvian trove, indeed; so much that one hardly knows where to begin dipping into its treasures."—Alma Guillermoprieto, author of *Dancing with Cuba: A Memoir of the Revolution*  
"This is an extremely deep, broad, and insightful collection on Peru."—Jorge Castañeda, author of *Utopia Unarmed: The Latin American Left after the Cold War* and former Foreign Minister of Mexico  
"[A] thoughtfully-chosen range of primary historical documents, anthropological and journalistic analyses, and literary endeavors. . . . The book is a compelling and convincing mix; there's nothing else like it." (Jessaca B. Leinaweaver *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*)

"This is an extremely deep, broad, and insightful collection on Peru."--Jorge Castaneda, author of "Utopia Unarmed: The Latin American Left after the Cold War" and former Foreign Minister of Mexico

ok as a primer, but the format (collection of various historical writings) needs more context and chronological gap-filling. I was very confused when we go from the beginning of the pacific war to 60 years after suddenly without mentioning who won and why. Some of the selections were forgettable, others memorable, but ultimately it felt like it left massive gaps in the history that could have been easily oatched in with some wikipedia style summaries.

Book came with coffee stains and some damage despite being listed as used but in very good conditions. The book itself is very informative and have provided me with great background for my research paper.

Text was well worth the purchase. Each chapter was devoted to snippets of Peru's culture which includes it ravaged past regarding terrorism (Shining Path), government control, and the Fujimori years. Also included is poetry that tells a story about *El tiempo*, or epic accounts of Spanish rule, Peru's Independence and its geologic battles with earthquakes. This text provided a clear context for me prior to my travels to Peru, a definite must read for those

interested in Peru's history and cultural context.

Comprehensive intro to the history and culture of Peru. I found it entertaining and informative, and a great way to fill in some of the blanks about a very complex and ongoing political and cultural process.

Five stars for this book. After I returned from a six week trip to Peru, I was perplexed, astonished, and intrigued by so much that I saw and experienced there. I bought this book hoping it would answer some of my questions. On the contrary, it answered ALL of my questions and left me asking and wanting to read more. What a fascinating country and culture! I was a Latin American Studies major in college, and I learned an incredible amount from this book. I wouldn't recommend taking this book on your trip with you (it's quite large and heavy), but it would be a great intro to the country you're about to visit, or when you're back home missing your vacation, a great resource to dip into to remember and learn more about Peru. As another reviewer mentioned, I too wish there was such a book like this for every country I travel to! I will be reading this book again, and I highly recommend it to those who will be traveling to Peru, or to those armchair travelers who have an interest in Latin America.

I liked the book . I would like more history ,All though I liked the poetry I was looking for more history of other peoples before the incas.

Can't recommend this more. I read it when I arrived in Peru (5 years ago) and have impressed many a Peruvian with my knowledge lifted from it. Broad reaching (as supposedly all the Reader series), I usually find its information to be seconded and enhanced by much more focused works. Fantastic introduction.

good selection, great references, many different perspectives provide a panorama of peruvian politics, history, culture.

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