

First Part of the Royal Commentaries of the Yncas, Volume 2, / 2010 / 568 pages / Cambridge University Press, 2010 / Garcilasso de la Vega / 9781108010467

The central idea for this volume on the seminal Royal Commentaries of the Incas and General History of Peru (1609) by Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (1539–1616) is to bring together, in a single volume in English, key essays authored by some of the most distinguished students of Inca Garcilaso's work. Thus far, most of the book-length scholarship on Inca Garcilaso's work has been published in Spanish, with the notable exception of John Grier Varner's *El Inca: The Life and Times of Garcilaso de la Vega* (1968) and Margarita Zamora's *Language, Authority, and Indigenous History in the Comentarios reales de Garcilaso de la Vega*, the first native of the New World to attain importance as a writer in the Old World. Born in Cuzco in 1539, the illegitimate son of a Spanish cavalier and an Inca princess. Although he was educated as a gentleman of Spain and won an important place in Spanish letters, Garcilaso was fiercely proud of his Indian ancestry and wrote under the name *El Inca*. For the material in Part One of *Royal Commentaries*—the history of the Inca civilization prior to the arrival of the Spaniards—Garcilaso drew upon "what I often heard as a child from the lips of my mother and her brothers and uncles and other elders . . . [of] the origin of the Inca kings, their greatness, the grandeur of their empire, their deeds and. The royal commentaries of Peru, in two parts the first part, treating of the original of their Incas or kings, of their idolatry, of their laws and government both in peace and war, of the reigns and conquests of the Incas, with many other particulars relating to their empire and policies before such time as the Spaniards invaded their countries : the second part, describing the manner by which that new world was conquered by the Spaniards : also the civil wars between the Picisarrists and the Almagrians, occasioned by quarrels arising about the division of that land, of the rise and fall of re