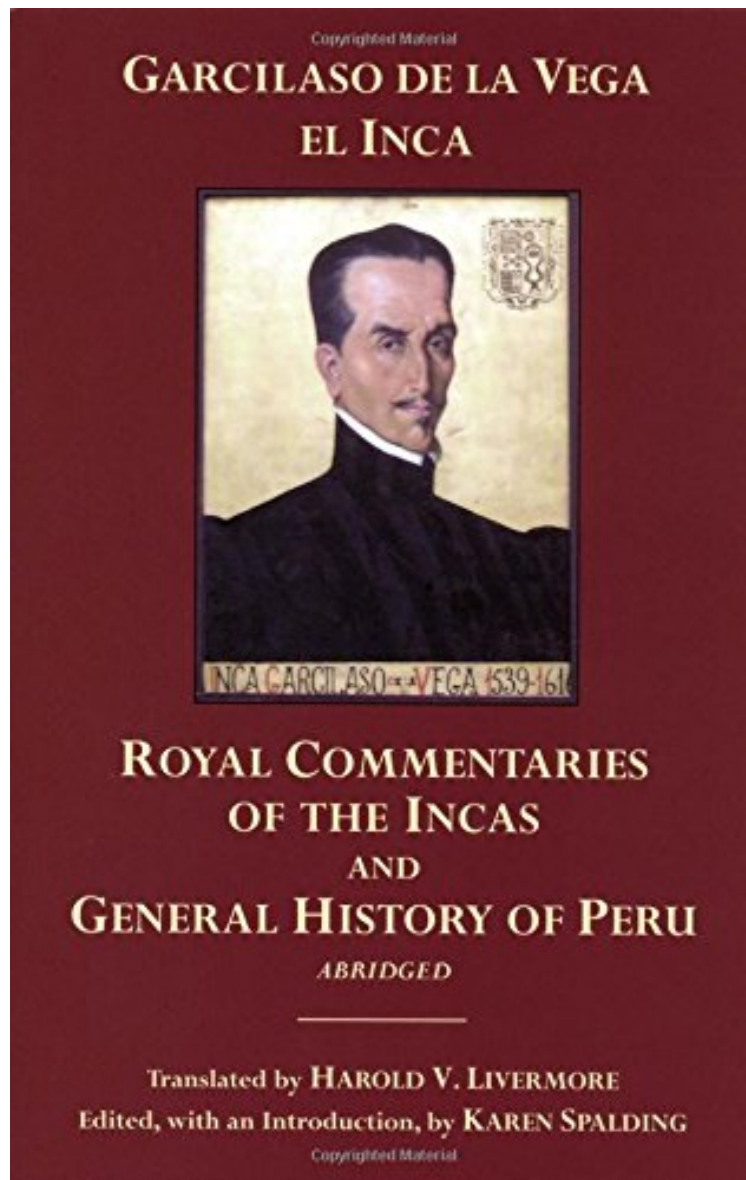


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The Royal Commentaries of the Incas and General History of Peru, Abridged

Garcilaso De la Vega
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Garcilaso De la Vega : The Royal Commentaries of the Incas and General History of Peru, Abridged before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Royal Commentaries of the Incas and General History of Peru, Abridged:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Spaniard infighting from the eyes of a Mestizo sonBy Colin Post
Considered the most important text from colonial Peru, Garcilaso de la Vega was a mestizo Peruvian born of a Spanish conquistador and an Inca noblewoman. He was born into a relatively privileged position in Cusco soon after the submission of the Incas, and he identified very much with his Inca roots. While his book was censored by the Spanish Crown and the Roman Catholic Church, he aimed to improve the image of Peru's indigenous people. He deftly did so within the censorship constraints. His account of Inca life before the Spaniards is clearly biased not only because of his aim, but also because the Incas hadn't developed writing. Their history is told and retold orally through the generations, and Garcilaso experienced that tradition via extended family on his mother's side. So a little unreliable in that department, but the most interesting part of this book was the second half, which details the countless small wars between rivaling factions of Spaniards in the first years after the conquest. The Spaniard conquistadores fought various wars among themselves with the stakes being all the fruits of the conquered Incas' labor. It illustrates the caudillo mentality in Latin America, a major reason why Latin American nations have fallen behind North America and Western Europe.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The only authoritative translationBy Steven Evans
This was the only authoritative translation I could find after searching not only a variety of sources on the www but also bookshops in Lima and Cuzco. The introduction places the book in context and assists in better understanding the translated text and its understatement of facets of history that contradicted the Spanish establishment view. This is an essential read for both students and those otherwise interested of South American and pre-columbian history.
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Such detail about the conquest with care taken to not upset the reviewers who could have kept the book from being published. A sad tale!

This new abridgment of both volumes of Livermore's classic translation presents those selections that comprise Garcilaso's historical narrative. Karen Spalding's new Introduction and notes set Garcilaso in his intellectual, historical, and cultural contexts.