
Review of *Revolution in the Andes: The Age of Tupac Amaru*, by Sergio Serulnikov (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013).

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The ancient empires of the Americas had fallen. The native peoples of Central and South America had been overthrown and their wealth plundered, their new conquistador overlords now reigned supreme. However, the Spanish dominance over the Americas was by no means unchallenged. For much of the colonial history of Latin America, the indigenous people of the Americas would rise to oppose the Spanish, inciting bloody riots and wars on a regular basis. While resistance often proved fleeting, isolated, and did little to challenge the status quo, some exceptions managed to rock the Spaniards to their core. One of these revolutionaries, Tupac Amaru II, caught the attention of Professor Sergio Serulnikov, professor of history at University of San Andrés in Buenos Aires.

In 2013, Serulnikov published *Revolution in the Andes: The Age of Tupac Amaru*, an account of what many, including the author, regard as one of the largest and most successful Indian revolts in colonial Latin America, which took place in 1780-1781 in Spanish Peru. Led by a mulatto merchant named Jose Gabriel Condorcanqui, who adopted the name of a legendary Inca king who also rebelled, this revolt was unique mainly in the size and organization. Unlike many Indian uprisings against Spanish rule, which were generally small, isolated incidents started by local disputes, Amaru II's movement reached out to all natives of the Andes, calling them together into a unified rebellion against the Spanish. For two years, from 1780 to 1781, Amaru waged a vicious campaign that terrorized the *Peninsular* elite before he was eventually captured and executed. Though Amaru died, the fighting would continue for another year under his son and cousin.

Serulnikov offers an excellent and in-depth account of the rebellion, though he does not limit himself to the events of that specific war. Serulnikov broadens his work to include examination of various smaller uprisings that predated and ultimately led to Amaru's own. He asserts that it was not just a single case of a charismatic leader rallying other groups to his cause, but rather a diverse collection of movements uniting into an organized movement. These various anti-Spanish movements demonstrated a huge variety of ideologies, approaches, and goals, and Serulnikov takes time to go into all of them. He structures the book to analyze these various revolts, the consequences of them, and how they fed into Amaru's movement.

Moving into the technical side of things, Serulnikov's writing is accessible and engaging. Each section is a chapter of a larger story of how the Andean revolt came to be, the war and its development after Amaru's death, and the long-term consequences of it. While the writing is very detailed, the chapters themselves are short, ranging from 4 to 18 pages, allowing for a quick, though highly informative read. The source material is primarily geared towards political and military history (specifically in Latin America), yet it still functions as an enjoyable read for more casual historians.

In the book's forward, historian Charles F. Walker claims that Sergio Serulnikov has provided the best overview of the Amaru rebellion available, praising him for his "sharp eye for comparisons and his fine pen," an assessment that certainly holds water. *Revolution in the Andes*

masterfully presents a complete and in-depth overview of one of the most infamous episodes in colonial American history.