

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465281703321
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Titolo	Ancient people of the Andes // Michael A. Malpass
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York ; ; London, [England] : , : Cornell University Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-5017-0392-7 1-5017-0393-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (316 pages, 8 unnumbered pages of plates) : color illustrations
Disciplina	980/.01
Soggetti	Indigenous peoples - Andes Region Indians of South America - Andes Region Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- PREFACE -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 1. LEARNING ABOUT THE PAST -- 2. GEOGRAPHY OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH ANDES -- 3. THE TIME BEFORE TEMPLES -- 4. SETTLING DOWN AND SETTLING IN -- 5. SOCIETAL GROWTH AND DIFFERENTIATION -- 6. OF MASKS AND MONOLITHS -- 7. ART AND POWER -- 8. CLASH OF THE TITANS? -- 9. AUCA RUNA, THE EPOCH OF WARFARE -- 10. EXPANSION AND EMPIRE -- NOTES -- REFERENCES CITED -- INDEX -- Plates
Sommario/riassunto	In Ancient People of the Andes, Michael A. Malpass describes the prehistory of western South America from initial colonization to the Spanish Conquest. All the major cultures of this region, from the Moche to the Inkas, receive thoughtful treatment, from their emergence to their demise or evolution. No South American culture that lived prior to the arrival of Europeans developed a writing system, making archaeology the only way we know about most of the prehispanic societies of the Andes. The earliest Spaniards on the continent provided first-person accounts of the latest of those societies, and, as descendants of the Inkas became literate, they too became a source of

information. Both ethnohistory and archaeology have limitations in what they can tell us, but when we are able to use them together they are complementary ways to access knowledge of these fascinating cultures. Malpass focuses on large anthropological themes: why people settled down into agricultural communities, the origins of social inequalities, and the evolution of sociopolitical complexity. Ample illustrations, including eight color plates, visually document sites, societies, and cultural features. Introductory chapters cover archaeological concepts, dating issues, and the region's climate. The subsequent chapters, divided by time period, allow the reader to track changes in specific cultures over time.
