

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819133203321
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Titolo	Costume and history in highland Ecuador // [edited] by Ann Pollard Rowe and Lynn A. Meisch ; with contributions by Suzanne Austin [et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin : , : University of Texas Press, , 2011 ©2011
ISBN	0-292-73473-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 382 pages, 7 unnumbered pages of plates) : illustrations, maps
Collana	Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long series in Latin American and Latino art and culture
Altri autori (Persone)	RoweAnn P MeischLynn <1945-> AustinSuzanne
Disciplina	391.009866
Soggetti	Clothing and dress - Ecuador - History Ethnicity - Ecuador - History Ecuador Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Preface""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction (Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter 1. Ecuador before the Incas""; ""The Geography of Ecuador (Karen Olsen Bruhns)""; ""An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ecuador (Karen Olsen Bruhns)""; ""Costume in Ecuador before the Incas (Karen Olsen Bruhns)""; ""Evidence for Pre-Inca Textiles (Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter 2. Ecuador under the Inca Empire""; ""The Incas in Quito (John Howland Rowe)""; ""Costume under the Inca Empire (Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter 3. Ecuador under the Spanish Empire"" ""An Introduction to the History of Colonial Ecuador (Suzanne Austin)""; ""Colonial Costume (Lynn A. Meisch)""; ""Chapter 4. Historical Developments in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Ecuador (Margaret Young-Sanchez)""; ""Chapter 5. Carchi Province (Ecuador) and the Department of Narino (Colombia) (Joanne Rappaport)""; ""Chapter 6. Costume in Imbabura Province""; ""Otavalo (Lynn A. Meisch)""; ""Natabuela (Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Eastern Imbabura and Northeastern Pichincha Provinces (Lynn A. Meisch and Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter

7. Costume in Southern Pichincha Province (Ann Pollard Rowe)""  
""Chapter 8. Costume in Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, and Bolivar Provinces  
(Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter 9. Costume in Chimborazo and Canar  
Provinces""; ""Chapter 10. Azuay Province""; ""The Cholos of Azuay:  
Historical Introduction (Margaret Young-Sanchez)""; ""Historic Costume  
in Azuay (Lynn A. Meisch and Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""Chapter 11.  
Saraguro Costume in Loja Province (Lynn A. Meisch)""; ""Conclusions"";  
""Notes""; ""Glossary (Ann Pollard Rowe)""; ""References Cited"";  
""Contributors""; ""Index""

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Sommario/riassunto

The traditional costumes worn by people in the Andes—women's woolen skirts, men's ponchos, woven belts, and white felt hats— instantly identify them as natives of the region and serve as revealing markers of ethnicity, social class, gender, age, and so on. Because costume expresses so much, scholars study it to learn how the indigenous people of the Andes have identified themselves over time, as well as how others have identified and influenced them. Costume and History in Highland Ecuador assembles for the first time for any Andean country the evidence for indigenous costume from the entire chronological range of prehistory and history. The contributors glean a remarkable amount of information from pre-Hispanic ceramics and textile tools, archaeological textiles from the Inca empire in Peru, written accounts from the colonial period, nineteenth-century European-style pictorial representations, and twentieth-century textiles in museum collections. Their findings reveal that several garments introduced by the Incas, including men's tunics and women's wrapped dresses, shawls, and belts, had a remarkable longevity. They also demonstrate that the hybrid poncho from Chile and the rebozo from Mexico diffused in South America during the colonial period, and that the development of the rebozo in particular was more interesting and complex than has previously been suggested. The adoption of Spanish garments such as the pollera (skirt) and man's shirt were also less straightforward and of more recent vintage than might be expected.

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