1. Record Nr. UNINA9910838208603321 Autore Leon Llerena Laura Titolo Reading the Illegible: Indigenous Writing and the Limits of Colonial Hegemony in the Andes Pubbl/distr/stampa Bristol:,: University of Arizona Press,, 2023 ©2023 **ISBN** 9780816547548 9780816547531 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (265 pages) Classificazione SOC062000SOC002010 898/.323 Disciplina Soggetti Quechua language - Writing Quechua language SOCIAL SCIENCE / Anthropology / Cultural & Social SOCIAL SCIENCE / Indigenous Studies Quechua Indians - Peru - Huarochiri - Manuscripts Quechua language - Peru - Texts Quechua language - Peru - History Quechua language - Writing - History Peru Huarochiri Peru Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di contenuto Cover -- Title page -- Copyright -- Contents -- List of Illustrations --Acknowledgments -- Introduction. "Writing Is a Strange Thing": Making the Case for Legibility -- 1. Reading Through the Eyes of an Extirpator of Idolatries -- 2. The Absent Knot: Narrating and Counting in the Andes -- 3. Writing in Quechua, Reading in Spanish -- 4. "We Christians": Andeans Rewriting Christianity -- Conclusions -- Notes --References -- Index -- About the Author. "Reading the Illegible examines the history of alphabetic writing in early Sommario/riassunto colonial Peru, deconstructing the conventional notion of literacy as a weapon of the colonizer. This book develops the concept of legibility,

which allows for an in-depth analysis of coexisting Andean and non-

Native media. The book discusses the stories surrounding the creation of the Huarochiri Manuscript (c. 1598-1608), the only surviving booklength text written by Indigenous people in Quechua in the early colonial period. The manuscript has been deemed "untranslatable in all the usual senses," but scholar Laura Leon Llerena argues that it offers an important window into the meaning of legibility. The concept of legibility allows us to reconsider this unique manuscript within the intertwined histories of literacy, knowledge, and colonialism. Reading the Illegible shows that the anonymous author(s) of the Huarochiri Manuscript, along with two contemporaneous Andean-authored texts by Joan de Santa Cruz Pachacuti and Felipe Guaman Poma de Avala, rewrote the history of writing and the notion of Christianity by deploying the colonizers' technology of alphabetic writing. Reading the Illegible weaves together the story of the peoples, places, objects, and media that surrounded the creation of the anonymous Huarochiri Manuscript to demonstrate how Andean people endowed the European technology of writing with a new social role in the context of a multimedia society"--