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| 1. Record Nr. | UNISA996248143903316 |
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| Titolo | Moon, sun, and witches : gender ideologies and class in Inca and colonial Peru // Irene Silverblatt |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Princeton, New Jersey : , : Princeton University Press, , [1987] ©1987 |
| ISBN | 1-4008-4334-0 |
| Edizione | [8th print.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (xxxiii, 266 p.) : ill. ; |
| Disciplina | 985.019 |
| Soggetti | Incas - Social life and customs |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | 1st print.: cop. 1987. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front matter -- CONTENTS -- List of Figures -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Chronology -- I. PRODUCING ANDEAN EXISTENCE -- II. GENDER PARALLELISM IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES -- III. GENDER PARALLELISM IN THE IMPERIAL ORDER -- IV. IDEOLOGIES OF CONQUEST IN THE AYLLU -- V. TRANSFORMATIONS: THE CONQUEST HIERARCHY AND IMPERIAL RULE -- VI. UNDER THE SPANISH: NATIVE NOBLEWOMEN ENTER THE MARKET ECONOMY -- VII. WOMEN OF THE PEASANTRY -- VIII. POLITICAL DISFRANCHISEMENT -- IX. CULTURAL DEFIANCE: THE SORCERY WEAPON -- X. WOMEN OF THE PUNA -- XI. A PROPOSAL -- Appendix: Ayllu, Tributed Ayllu, and Gender -- Glossary -- A Note on Sources -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | When the Spanish arrived in Peru in 1532, men of the Inca Umpire worshipped the Sun as Father and their dead kings as ancestor heroes, while women venerated the Moon and her daughters, the Inca queens, as founders of female dynasties. In the pre-Inca period such notions of parallel descent were expressions of complementarity between men and women. Examining the interplay between gender ideologies and political hierarchy, Irene Silverblatt shows how Inca rulers used their Sun and Moon traditions as methods of controlling women and the Andean peoples the Incas conquered. She then explores the process by which the Spaniards employed European male and female imageries to establish their own rule in Peru and to make new inroads on the power of native women, particularly poor peasant women. Harassed |

economically and abused sexually, Andean women fought back, earning in the process the Spaniards' condemnation as "witches." Fresh from the European witch hunts that damned women for susceptibility to heresy and diabolic influence, Spanish clerics were predisposed to charge politically disruptive poor women with witchcraft. Silverblatt shows that these very accusations provided women with an ideology of rebellion and a method for defending their culture.
