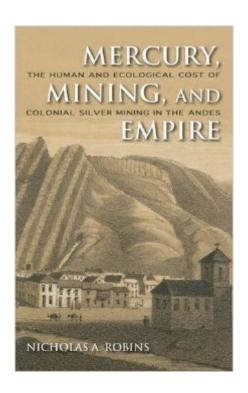
# The book was found

# Mercury, Mining, And Empire: The Human And Ecological Cost Of Colonial Silver Mining In The Andes





## **Synopsis**

On the basis of an examination of the colonial mercury and silver production processes and related labor systems, Mercury, Mining, and Empire explores the effects of mercury pollution in colonial Huancavelica, Peru, and PotosÃ-, in present-day Bolivia. The book presents a multifaceted and interwoven tale of what colonial exploitation of indigenous peoples and resources left in its wake. It is a socio-ecological history that explores the toxic interrelationships between mercury and silver production, urban environments, and the people who lived and worked in them. Nicholas A. Robins tells the story of how native peoples in the region were conscripted into the noxious ranks of foot soldiers of proto-globalism, and how their fate, and that of their communities, wasâ •and still isâ •chained to it.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Indiana University Press; 1 edition (July 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0253356512

ISBN-13: 978-0253356512

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #704,563 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > History >

Americas > South America > Bolivia #108 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Peru

#179 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental >

Environmental > Pollution

### Customer Reviews

This is a sobering account of the cost of colonial silver mining in the Andes, This includes not only the considerable human cost of near-slavery in the mines themselves, and the toll taken by the processing of mercury for use in the mines, but the large amount of mercury pollution--a sort of gift that keeps on giving even after centuries. Robins estimates that the colonial era left behind 90,000 to 100,000 tons of mercury pollution (another estimate I have seen is 50,000 tons), still affecting people in the Potosi and other areas. The book seems thoroughly researched. Readers should be aware that the book is strongly biased against the Spanish colonial regime, He calls the whole colonial endeavor genocidal. The information is solid, the writing is good, but this is some sobering

material.

Nicholas Robins, the author of Mercury, Mining, and Empire is a leading histrian of Colonial Latin American history. His present book, based on archival, historical, scientific, and theoretical materials, is a superb study of the Spanish domination in 17-18th century Peru and Bolivia, and of the exploitation of native peoples in the silver mines, which helped to fund Spanish imperilaism in other areas of the world. Additionally, the mining process was heavily indebted to the use of mercury to separate silver from rock, and the result was disastrous to the people at the time, but the author shows, continues to afflict those in the areas of the mining even in the 21th century. A work of meticulous historical examination, but one that joins the past with the present, history with the current envirnment.

An important and well researched book expertly presented. Dr. Robins provides economic, geopolitical, and societal insights in an historical, current, and future commercial contexts useful to anyone interested or working in the Andean region. Tom Blinten Managing Partner and CEOPanaMax Capital

Somewhat difficult to follow at times but excellent information. I highly recommend it to someone interested in this subject.

### Download to continue reading...

Mercury, Mining, and Empire: The Human and Ecological Cost of Colonial Silver Mining in the Andes The Power of Mercury: Understanding Mercury Retrograde and Unlocking the Astrological Secrets of Communication Mercury Revolts: (Book Four of the Mercury Series) Mercury Rests (Mercury Series Book 3) Candida, Silver (Mercury) Fillings and the Immune System Mercury Free: The Wisdom Behind the Global Consumer Movement to Ban Silver Dental Fillings Mining California: An Ecological History Poor-Quality Cost: Implementing, Understanding, and Using the Cost of Poor Quality (Quality and Reliability) Islands, Islanders and the World: The Colonial and Post-colonial Experience of Eastern Fiji (Cambridge Human Geography) Gold, Silver and Rare Coins: A Complete Guide To Finding Buying Selling Investing: Plus...Coin Collecting A-Z: Gold, Silver and Rare Coins Are Top Sellers on eBay, and Etsy The Silver Shield Guide: For Micro Mintage Collectors and Investors (Silver Shield Quarterly Guides Book 1) Where in the World Did All Those Silver Coins Come From?: Cherry Picking the Silver Coins of the World for Fun and Profit The Last 90 Percent Silver United States Coins - A Buying and Selling Guide (U.S. Silver Coin Series Book 1)

A Guide to Buying and Selling Peace & Morgan Silver Dollars (U.S. Silver Coin Series Book 2)
Discovering Knowledge in Data: An Introduction to Data Mining (Wiley Series on Methods and
Applications in Data Mining) The Black Doctors of Colonial Lima: Science, Race, and Writing in
Colonial and Early Republican Peru (McGill-Queen's/Associated Medical Services Studies in
the History of Medicine, H) Guiana and the Shadows of Empire: Colonial and Cultural Negotiations
at the Edge of the World Intimate Empire: Collaboration and Colonial Modernity in Korea and Japan
Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World Tropics of Vienna: Colonial Utopias
of the Habsburg Empire (Austrian and Habsburg Studies)

<u>Dmca</u>