

Power and Property in Inca Peru. By SALLY FALK MOORE. New York, 1958. Columbia University Press. Appendix. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 190. Cloth. \$5.00.

This book is a study of what the author considers to be the legal aspects of Inca culture: the tenure of land, the Inca system of taxation, criminal law, succession and inheritance, and the imperial administrative system through which Inca law was enforced. Mrs. Moore took degrees in both law and anthropology at Columbia University, and *Power and Property in Inca Peru* is her Ph.D. dissertation. Its publication was made possible by a Charles F. Ansley Award from the Columbia University Press.

Mrs. Moore's legal background provides an interesting perspective on the problem, although one could wish that she commanded more specialized knowledge of sixteenth century Spanish law and legal terminology because of its importance in understanding the attitudes of the chroniclers toward Inca institutions.

Power and property undertakes two different tasks. On the one hand, it is an attempt to establish and interpret the facts about Inca legal institutions on the basis of extensive research in the Spanish sources. On the other, it is a polemic in which "popular preconceptions" of the Inca state as a Utopian ideal are pilloried. The two aims of the book frequently interfere with one another in a way which must be very confusing to the general reader. The polemic demands an emphasis on certain facts about Inca culture which are significant because they contradict the theories the author is criticizing. The polemic emphasis distorts the general picture of Inca institutions which the author is trying to construct, and she often has to retract some of it in order to restore the balance. This difficulty could have been avoided by working up an independent picture of Inca institutions first and saving the polemic for a separate section at the end.

The text is loosely organized and quite unnecessarily repetitious. For example, on p. 51 the author makes the excellent point, based on a statement by Cieza de León, that men drafted from the provinces to work on construction projects in Cuzco were supplied from their home provinces and not from government stores at the capital. The same point is made again, as if it had not previously been mentioned, on p. 67, and a third time on p. 69. The reference to Cieza is repeated in each case in a separate footnote.

The author makes a number of very valuable substantive contributions to our knowledge of Inca institutions. I was particularly pleased to note her demonstration that the curacas were supported by the

proceeds of lands which they controlled directly, rather than from the stores of the central government. Her research on this point corrects a serious error in my earlier treatment of the subject. Her emphasis on the lack of commercial law among the Incas is also of special interest.

In spite of her criticism of the idealization of the Inca state, Mrs. Moore cannot bring herself to admit a feature of Inca land policy which became a major political problem in the last days of the empire. The "lands of the Inca" were treated as the private estate of the ruler, to be passed on to his descendants other than his successor. His successor, therefore, had to seize additional lands in each province in order to provide an estate to support his government. The implications of such a policy, even by the fourth reign, can readily be imagined. I believe that it was Juan Benayas, in 1951, who first called attention to the evidence for the accumulation of Inca estates. The evidence is as good as that for most other features of Inca land policy, but Mrs. Moore rejects it with the remark that "it does not seem possible" (p. 94). However, this is the only important case in which she argues against the evidence.

University of California
Berkeley

JOHN HOWLAND ROWE

COLONIAL PERIOD

Colección de documentos para la historia de la formación social de Hispanoamérica 1493-1810. Volume II, Books I & II. Madrid, 1958. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Pp. 908. Index. of persons (Book II). Paper.

Professor Konetzke's continuation of his source collection on Hispanic-American social history containing some 574 items covers most of the seventeenth century from 1593 to 1690. The vast majority of the documents are unpublished accounts from the Archivo General de Indias. And the bulk of these are royal cédulas and communications from the Council of the Indies, although there are some selections from officials in the colonies. The diverse regions of the empire are widely represented. Of course, this collection is a selection with the inevitable element of personal choice involved. But Dr. Konetzke must be complimented for the remarkably well-balanced and comprehensive coverage of this collection. The whole panorama of that com-