

# ABOUT THE SERIES

**L***atin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations* is a critical series. It aims to explore the emergence and consequences of concepts used to define “Latin America” while at the same time exploring the broad interplay of political, economic, and cultural practices that have shaped Latin American worlds. Latin America, at the crossroads of competing imperial designs and local responses, has been construed as a geocultural and geopolitical entity since the nineteenth century. This series provides a starting point to redefine Latin America as a configuration of political, linguistic, cultural, and economic intersections that demand a continuous reappraisal of the role of the Americas in history, and of the ongoing process of globalization and the relocation of people and cultures that have characterized Latin America’s experience. *Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations* is a forum that confronts established geocultural constructions, that rethinks area studies and disciplinary boundaries, that assesses convictions of the academy and of public policy, and that, correspondingly, demands that the practices through which we produce knowledge and understanding about and from Latin America be subject to rigorous and critical scrutiny.

*From Two Republics to One Divided* studies a range of predicaments that haunted the making (and unmaking) of the nineteenth-century Peruvian nation-state. These predicaments, as Mark Thurner demonstrates, were rooted in the contradiction between the cultural politics of Spain’s colonial enterprise and the camouflaged cultural politics of the Peruvian liberal state. The Peruvian Republic’s ideology of statecraft denied ethnic categories any role in government: “Indian” did not officially exist. Nevertheless, in the practice of government, the Republic had to take those categories into account. Reflecting on postcolonial theory, Thurner is able to carve analytical space for the unimagined of both Republican historiography and of Republican politics. Because he envisions the transformation of the Viceroyalty of Peru into a modern nation-state from a local perspective, Thurner is uniquely able to amplify these analytical predicaments: he can assess peasant engagement with elite Republican political worlds as he recasts disciplinary methodologies. He does so with a critical use of anthropology, history, and

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literary theory. *From Two Republics to One Divided* speaks across centuries, disciplines, and locations to all students of postcolonial dilemmas.

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