

❖ PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

❖ This book originated when a group of faculty and students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison began discussing the difficulty of understanding the origins, social dynamics, and consequences of the political agony that convulsed Peru in the 1980s and early 1990s. Frustration, urgency, and opportunity all played roles in our discussions. The frustration emerged from a sense that our inherited knowledge and the available intellectual frameworks were inadequate for achieving a deep, multifaceted understanding. Urgency derived from the sense that Peru and Peruvians had been living a great disaster and a decisive watershed period; these conditions seemed to demand, almost as an ethical priority, that we mount an effort to improve understanding and interpretation of Peru’s recent history. A sense of opportunity also emerged. A number of intellectuals and activists had “come of age,” intellectually, during Peru’s war years. Their field knowledge and analytical flexibility, if integrated into a carefully designed and multigenerational collaboration, might help develop the fresh knowledge and analysis that seemed so urgent.

Out of these discussions emerged a planning group for an international conference, entitled “Shining and Other Paths: Anatomy of a Peruvian Tragedy, Prospects for a Peruvian Future.” This conference was held at the University of Wisconsin on 27–30 April 1995. We coordinated the conference with student reading and research in experimental courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Subsequently, the editor of this volume worked intensively with conference authors to sharpen and integrate their essays. In some instances, the rewriting process led to new or thoroughly revamped essays. Our hope is that we have molded our efforts into an original

and coherent book whose whole is larger than the sum of its parts, and that the book captures in some way the intellectual excitement of the conference.

This project drew on the help of many people and agencies. My partners on the symposium planning group included Marisol de la Cadena, Nancy Forster, Florencia E. Mallon, William Ney, Guido Podestá, Frank Salomon, and during his time as Tinker Visiting Professor at Madison, Carlos Iván Degregori. Without their enthusiasm and suggestions, the intellectual design of the conference and our ability to identify and invite knowledgeable participants would have been much weaker. Indispensable logistical support, publicity, and sponsorship of the conference were provided by the staff of the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program, especially William Ney, Kristen Smith, and Carrie Johnson. In addition, Laura Fuentes and Janet Melvin provided translation support for students and community members who attended and participated (the conference was conducted in Spanish to facilitate more fluid discussion and debate among the panelists).

I owe an especially important thank you to the co-authors of this book. Their good will and collaborative spirit at the 1995 conference and during the arduous process of intellectual critique and editorial nagging that followed it reminds me that sometimes, and however imperfectly, the metaphor of intellectual “community” really works. Among the coauthors, I owe special thanks to Carlos Iván Degregori, who was a wonderfully generous intellectual partner during the semester when we team taught and prepared for the conference, and to Florencia E. Mallon, who shared knowledge and provided support and perspective as the conference results evolved into a book.

Several additional intellectual contributions must also be acknowledged. First, the undergraduate and graduate students who worked with Professor Degregori and me during the Spring 1995 semester tolerated experimental team teaching with a great deal of good will and energized the campus community and the conference sessions with their intellectual insights, feedback, and engagement. Second, important contributions were made by scholars who contributed commentaries and related background papers to the panels. These discussants and authors included José Gonzales, Gustavo Gorriti, Christine Hunefeldt, Enrique Mayer, Alfred McCoy, David Scott Palmer, Leigh Payne, Deborah Poole, Gerardo Rénique, Frank Salomon, Thomas Skidmore, and M. Crawford Young. Third, during the postsymposium phase, a series of readers helped sharpen the book manuscript and provided welcome advice. I wish to thank Peter Klarén, John Tutino, and an anonymous reader for their excellent advice, as well as Valerie Millholland,

Rosalie Robertson, the team of editors and production assistants at Duke University Press, and the manuscript's copy editor, Linda Gregonis.

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During and after major collective traumas, the problem of memory and forgetfulness often becomes an important cultural issue. My connection to the Ayacucho region, and to the students, faculty and staff, and families affiliated with the Universidad Nacional de San Cristóbal de Huamanga, runs deep and is a bittersweet blend of affection, hope, and pain. This book's

dedication is one way of expressing that I have not forgotten the youth and families who have suffered so much and nonetheless insist on a future of hope, and that I have not forgotten the generosity of those who have welcomed me. This book is for you, gratefully, affectionately, hopefully.

Steve J. Stern
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