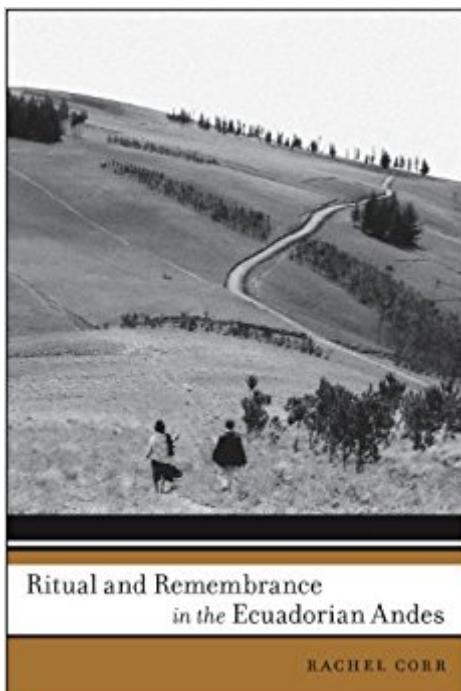


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# Ritual And Remembrance In The Ecuadorian Andes (First Peoples: New Directions In Indigenous Studies)



## Synopsis

Not every world culture that has battled colonization has suffered or died. In the Ecuadorian Andean parish of Salasaca, the indigenous culture has stayed true to itself and its surroundings for centuries while adapting to each new situation. Today, indigenous Salascans continue to devote a large part of their lives to their distinctive practices—both community rituals and individual behaviors—while living side by side with white-mestizo culture. In this book Rachel Corr provides a knowledgeable account of the Salasacan religion and rituals and their respective histories. Based on eighteen years of fieldwork in Salasaca, as well as extensive research in Church archives—including never-before-published documents—Corr's book illuminates how Salasacan culture adapted to Catholic traditions and recentered, reinterpreted, and even reshaped them to serve similarly motivated Salasacan practices, demonstrating the link between formal and folk Catholicism and pre-Columbian beliefs and practices. Corr also explores the intense connection between the local Salasacan rituals and the mountain landscapes around them, from peak to valley. Ritual and Remembrance in the Ecuadorian Andes is, in its portrayal of Salasacan religious culture, both thorough and all-encompassing. Sections of the book cover everything from the performance of death rituals to stories about how Salasacans interacted with outsiders—conquistadors and camera-toting tourists alike. Corr also investigates the role of shamanism in modern Salasacan culture, including shamanic powers and mountain spirits, and the use of reshaped, Andeanized Catholicism to sustain collective memory. Through its unique insider's perspective of Salasacan spirituality, Ritual and Remembrance in the Ecuadorian Andes is a valuable anthropological work that honestly represents this people's great ability to adapt.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Ritual and Remembrance in the Ecuadorian Andes is a richly detailed historical, ethnographic, and linguistic account of religious practice and social change among the Salasaca Runa. The result is a fine-grained work that will be of interest to scholars and graduate students interested not only in Ecuador but also in broader issues of religion and ethnic identity. Moreover, *Ritual and Remembrance* is very readable, making it accessible to undergraduate students. Corr’s jargon-free analysis of Salasacan narrative would be particularly well-suited for undergraduate students in linguistic anthropology courses.” • Maximilian Viatori, American Anthropologist “What I see here is fantastic fieldwork rich in detail and significance. The author has learned the language, dug deep for the most meaningful narratives, traced changes over time, and has generally gotten as close to an inside view of Salasacan cosmovision as anyone writing today.” • Kris Lane, author of *Quito 1599: City and Colony in Transition*

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