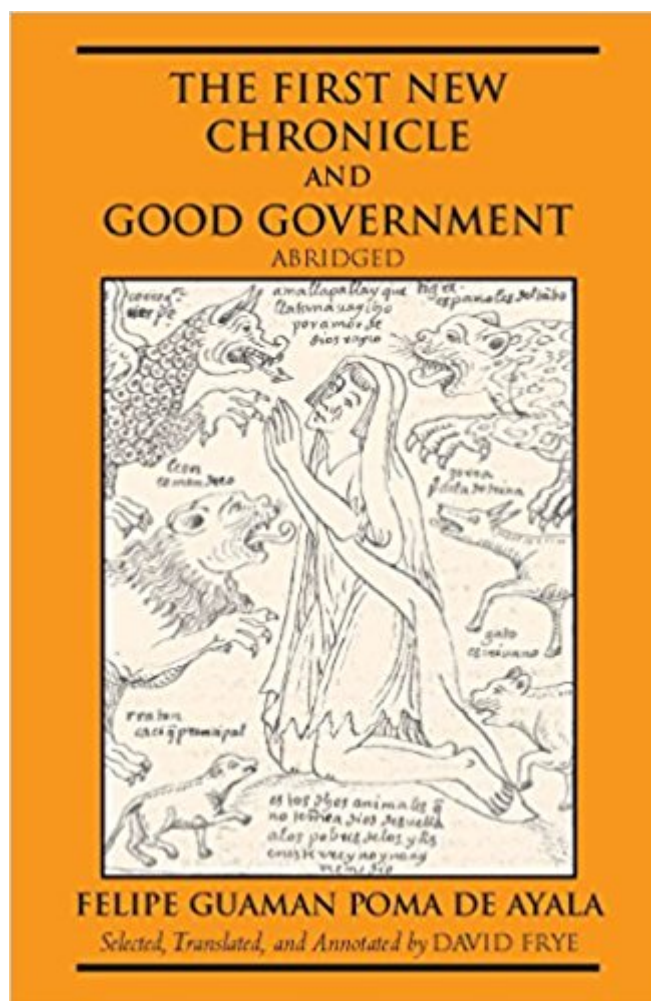


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The First New Chronicle And Good Government, Abridged (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

David Frye's skillful translation and abridgment of Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's monumental First New Chronicle and Good Government (composed between 1600-1616) offers an unprecedented glimpse into pre-colonial Inca society and culture, the Spanish conquest of Peru (1532-1572), and life under the corrupt Spanish colonial administration. An Introduction provides essential historical and cultural background and discusses the author's literary and linguistic innovations. Maps, a glossary of terms, and seventy-five of Guaman Poma's ink drawings are also included.

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Customer Reviews

David Frye achieves a tour de force in rendering the chronicle comprehensible to a large audience without diminishing its richness as an historical source. The different sections of this book respect the chronicle's original composition and translate Guaman Poma's main argument with accuracy. . . . Frye's translation . . . offers a vivid portrayal of Peru's colonial society with its different strata, revealing the intricate nature of indigeneity and gender in the Andes following the Spanish conquest. . . . [T]he English text is fluid throughout. This fluidity, however, neither stifles Guaman Poma's voice nor tones down his zeal in condemning the brutality and inequity of the colonial system. Frye's achievement undoubtedly leans on his comprehension of the literary and historical context that surrounds the mestizo author, a context he summarizes in the introduction. Punctuated by knowledgeable annotations throughout the pages and complemented by a glossary of Pre-Hispanic

and colonial terms, this translation proves to be a valuable contribution for introducing students to the Andean society of the colonial era. --Bulletin of Latin American Research

David Frye is a professional anthropologist and skilled translator. [This book] includes an Introduction which provides most of the information needed to understand Guaman Poma de Ayala's text and Frye's translation thereof, a map, a glossary, an index, and generally helpful notes that demonstrate a solid command of the relevant primary and secondary literature. The sections of the lengthy manuscript . . . selected for translation are representative of the work as a whole. . . . Frye also includes some of Guaman Poma de Ayala's several hundred black-and-white drawings, which should be viewed as an integral, not merely supplementary, part of his work. . . . [T]his is a welcome translation, all the more so because it is well done. . . . Frye has been painstaking in his explanation of terminology. I recommend this work for courses on Latin America during the colonial period, or more specifically the Central Andes (i.e., Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia). --Hispanic American Historical Review

Generations of scholars have grappled with the challenge of interpreting the person and project of the native Andean chronicler Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala. This abridged English translation of Guaman Poma's *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno* represents at least two accomplishments. First, it brings this person and project to many readers for the first time. And, second, the words allow for new encounters with the possibilities in this text. These words have a piercing directness that cannot be denied, and they will jar even seasoned scholars, who thought they knew Guaman Poma. Frye has made judicious choices about inclusion, he has consulted widely, he has not shied away from the transformations that were part of being authentically native Andean in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and he has wisely refused to fill the telling silences left by the author himself. Most significantly of all, for students and teachers, is that--in as much as it is possible--he has allowed Felipe Guaman Poma to speak for himself.

--Kenneth Mills, University of Toronto

David Frye's skillful translation and abridgment of Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's monumental *First New Chronicle and Good Government* (composed between 1600 and 1616) offers an unprecedented glimpse into pre-colonial Inca society and culture, the Spanish conquest of Peru (1532-1572), and life under the corrupt Spanish colonial administration. An Introduction provides essential historical and cultural background and discusses the author's literary and linguistic innovations. A map, a glossary of terms, and seventy-five of Guaman Poma's ink drawings are also included. "Generations of scholars have grappled with the challenge of interpreting the person and project of the native Andean chronicler Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala. This abridged English

translation of Guaman Poma's *Nueva corónica y buen gobierno* represents at least two accomplishments. First, it brings this person and project to many readers for the first time. And, second, the words allow for new encounters with the possibilities in this text. These words have a piercing directness that cannot be denied, and they will jar even seasoned scholars, who thought they knew Guaman Poma. Frye has made judicious choices about inclusion, he has consulted widely, he has not shied away from the transformations that were part of being authentically native Andean in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and he has wisely refused to fill the telling silences left by the author himself. Most significantly of all, for students and teachers, is that -- in as much as it is possible -- he has allowed Felipe Guaman Poma to speak for himself."--Kenneth Mills, University of Toronto "This edition of Guaman Poma, with its helpful notes and section introductions, makes a work of central importance for Latin American history, anthropology and literature accessible to students and the general public. David Frye has smoothed out the syntax of this difficult text enough to make it readable for such an audience without losing its seventeenth-century style. By leaving some Quechua words and phrases along with their translations, moreover, he has retained much of the feel of a colonial chronicle at the intersection of two cultures."--Sarah Chambers, University of Minnesota "Frye's Introduction to Guaman Poma . . . reads beautifully, is well thought-out, well-organized, and accessible to the reader . . . a fine model of the genre."--Rolena Adorno, Yale University David Frye is Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Great Reading choice for American Literature class! it has really interesting detail.

This is a book of drawings by the author, a Peruvian of mixed Indian/Spanish ancestry. He was only two generations removed from the conquest. It's important to understand that he wasn't Incan himself, rather his Indian family had been officials in the Empire but not ethnically Incan. Bizarrely, this book was "discovered" in a library in Copenhagen Denmark- in 1908! Pretty incredible if you think about, even more so when you consider that is one of the best sources on Pre-Contact Incan civilization (It has...pictures...) Poma's perspective is largely one of indignation and outrage on behalf of the Native Population's treatment at the hands of the Spaniards. In fact, the introduction explains that the function of this book originally was to obtain for the author the Spanish granted title of "Indian Advocate." It's certainly worth seeking out, first because, as a picture book you can read it in five minutes, and second, it is really interesting to see the Pre-Contact civilization depicted so accurately.

This book is an essential for anyone traveling to indigenous areas of Peru or Ecuador. Guaman Poma asserts his unique, proud identity and decries the Spaniards for having created the very problems their missionaries tried to solve. Perhaps most interesting is his fusion of Incan myths with Christian ones. As he is writing to the Pope, he has to navigate this fine line between Christianity and Inca, and his numerous crossed out portions (translated anyway as they were left legible) tell of his stress over this fact. Not the most engaging or exciting story, but definitely worth it for the rich context and subtleties.

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