Heirs of the Past

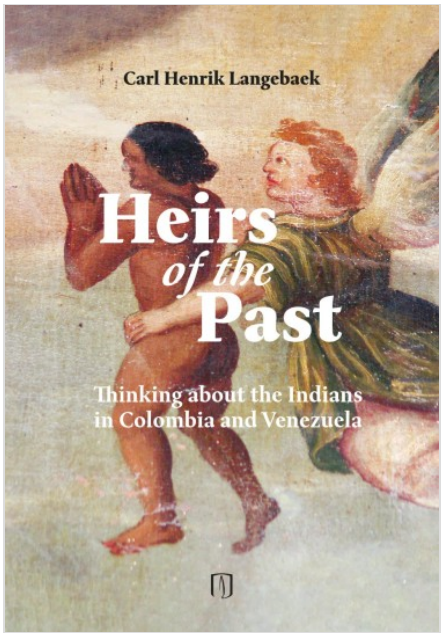
Thinking about the Indians in Colombia and Venezuela

Autores

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Sinopsis

“The opulent illustrations in Heirs of the Past gleam with the beauties of pre-Hispanic art. The engravings evoke the early revelations of Colombian archaeology and ethnography, yet, unlike other flashy compendiums, the magnum opus of anthropologist Carl Henrik Langebaek reaches startling conclusions: ‘The good Indian is […] an image just as efficient, or more so, for colonial purposes than that of the savage, cannibalistic Indian.’ This work, sparkling and singular, is not another portrait of Indigenous America, but rather a self-portrait of intellectual America seen through its successive concepts of diversity. This novel interpretation of Creolism reveals the fecundity of tropical thought while highlighting weaknesses hidden within its foundation.”—Frank Salomon, John V. Murra Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-MadisonHeirs of the Past provides a historical trace of how the Creole elites of Colombia and Venezuela appropriated the Indigenous figure and their history. The journey along its pages begins with the depictions of Indigenous peoples during the Spanish Conquest and follows the birth of a powerful idea: that the pre-Hispanic past belonged to the descendants of the conquerors.



Escanea para ver en línea

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This evolution culminates in the moment Creoles began referring to “our Indians.”Langebaek proposes a provocative thesis: the idealized image of the Indigenous person does not actually reflect the native population, but rather the Creole who uses the native as a mirror to represent themselves—particularly when facing the gaze of the foreigner. The book also reflects on the relationship between European and North American thought regarding the inhabitants of the tropics. While the responses from Creole intellectuals are presented as rich and complex, the author challenges their claims of being “original” or “liberating.” Instead, he argues that claiming the Indigenous as “ours” serves a colonial purpose. In other words, a positive view of the Indigenous person is not an act of generosity or recognition; it is a fundamental tool in an ideology of domination.



Sobre el autor

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Carl Henrik Langebaek is an anthropologist graduated from Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) and holds both an MA and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh.

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He is currently a Full Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Universidad de los Andes. Throughout his distinguished career at the same institution, he has served as Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Vice President for Research, and Academic Vice President. He was summer fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard University, and has been invited as lecturer at the British Museum, and as the 38th Annual Lecturer at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University. In 1998, he was awarded the Alejandro Ángel Escobar Prize in Social and Human Sciences for the first edition of this book. He has authored numerous books and articles on pre-Hispanic societies. Beyond his university roles, he has served as the Head of the Social Sciences Program at Colciencias and has been a member of the Superior Council of Universidad Nacional de Colombia, the Universidad Central, the National Accreditation Council, and the Superior Council of the school Gimnasio Moderno in Bogotá.



Jimmy Weiskopf



Palabras clave

Indigenous past; Colombia; Venezuela; Identity; Civilization; Race; Mestizaje; Cultural diversity; Anthropology; Ecology; Indigenous rights; Colonial period; Independence; National belonging; Political discourse; Literature; Archaeology; Antropología, américa indígena, elites criollas, colombia, venezuela, arte prehispánico, arqueología, etnografía, diversidad cultural

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