

AFRICAN-BOLIVIANS; THE SILENCED DYNAMIC OF THE ANDEAN DEMOGRAPHIC REALITY

- I Brief explanation of why an African participation in the South American Andes
1. See Lolita Gutierrez Brockington, *Blacks, Indians, and Spaniards in the Eastern Andes: Reclaiming the Forgotten in Colonial Mizque, 1550-1782*, Lincoln and London, University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
 - A. Eastern Andean Region: "Remote" frontier province and administrative center Mizque ((Meez'kay).
 2. Agricultural/economic significance re local and regional market demand and major labor shortage.. Indigenous population victims of disease and harsh treatment
 3. Spain turns to Africa. Two century boom in slave trade via Buenos Aires .
 - A. Cite slave trader's court filing re magnitude of the trade
 - B. Explain slave transport from coastal B.Aires to Potosi highlands
 4. African slaves in Mizque
 - A African slave expensive, highly valued "commodity"
 - B. The reality: Africans and soon their descendents
 1. Active participants in the economy, social system, legal system, and the military
 2. Played a significant dynamic in rapid demographic change.
- II. Supporting evidence for the above, or The Historian as Detective
1. Research for *Blacks, Indians, and Spaniards* = Many years of transcribing, Translating, and analyzing thousands of handwritten documents, many, but not all, notarial.
 - A. Dowries, last wills and testaments, bills of sale (of African slaves), estate inventories, estate census records, court cases, and select parish records, to name some.
 - B. All of the above useful for historical analysis *and* genealogical investigation.
 1. These documents involved property ownership. Slaves = property Owner had to provide name, place of origin, occupation, familial status, etc.
 2. Court cases. Very rich in socio-economic, and cultural detail. Think Inquisition. Many surprises.
 - 3 Estate census records = Periodic censuses of all landed properties including all labor, slave and free. The data retrieved from

hundreds of these documents include: 1) family size, 2) kin relations, 3) age, 4) gender, 5) civil status, 6) place of birth, 7) race and /or ethnicity, and 8) fiscal status.

- C. The above sets of documents excellent sources for cross-referencing and serial (over time) analysis, helpful for historical and genealogical investigations

PRESENT PROJECT is: based on new data collected from the archives of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sucre, seat of the Royal government and the Archbishopric of the larger eastern Andean region

- A. Greater focus on the African Bolivian based on several hundred parish records digitally photographed September 2004 including baptisms, marriages, funerals, most of which include names, age, gender, race, and ethnicity to cover a wider scope than the Mizque study
- B. Coupled with new notarial information will provide more data for a greater African participation, further demographic shifts, the presence of epidemic disease, and changes in socio-economic status

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