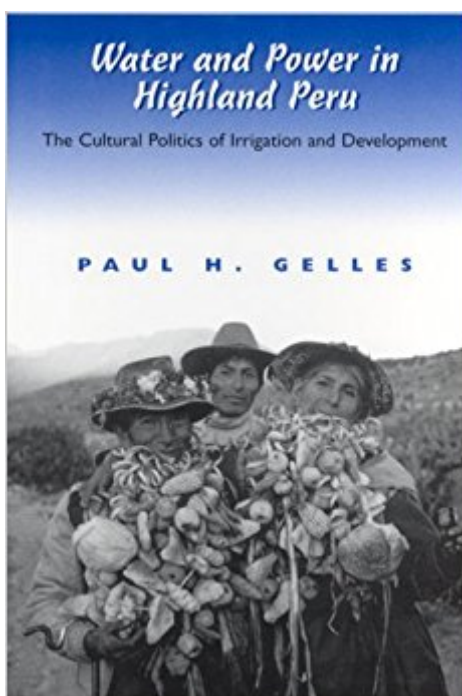


The book was found

# Water And Power In Highland Peru: The Cultural Politics Of Irrigation And Development



## Synopsis

Cabanaconde, a town of 5,000 people, is located in the arid Andean highlands. It is dominated by the foreboding Hualca Hualca mountain peak that is the source of this town's much-needed water. How the villagers obtain this water, Paul Gelles writes, is not a simple process: the politics of irrigation in this area reflect a struggle for control of vital resources, deeply rooted in the clash between local, ritualized models of water distribution and the secular model put forth by the Peruvian state. *Water and Power in Highland Peru* provides an insightful case study on the intense conflicts over water rights, and a framework for studying ethnic conflict and the effects of "development" not only in Peru, but in other areas as well. Most of the inhabitants of Cabanaconde do not identify themselves with the dominant Spanish-speaking culture found in Peru. And the Peruvian state, grounded in a racist, post-Colonial ethos, challenges the village's long-standing, non-Western framework for organizing water management. Gelles demonstrates that Andean culture is dynamic and adaptive, and it is a powerful source of ethnic identity, even for those who leave the village to live elsewhere. Indigenous rituals developed in this part of the world, he states, have become powerful tools of resistance against interference by local elites and the present-day Peruvian state. Most importantly, the micropolitics of Cabanaconde provide a window into a struggle that is taking place around the world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press (June 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813528070

ISBN-13: 978-0813528076

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #2,802,478 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Irrigation #1972 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Hispanic American Studies #2399 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Non-US Legal Systems

## Customer Reviews

In Andean society, as in many other areas of the world, irrigation water carries broad cultural

significance and has long been a source of conflict. Nowhere is the struggle over irrigation and over the cultural meanings of water more apparent than in Cabanaconde, a large peasant community located in the arid highlands of southern Peru. Using historical materials and richly detailed ethnographic reporting, Paul H. Gelles shows that water, ethnicity, and power in Cabanaconde, as elsewhere in the Andes, must be understood against the backdrop of the region's colonial past and contemporary nation-building in Peru. Sifting through the layers of meaning found in the local, ritualized model of irrigation and in the secular, monetary model put forth by the Peruvian state, Gelles shows that these models embody fundamentally different cultural rationales concerning natural resources, power, equity, and efficiency. Local models of irrigation, which previously served indigenous and Iberian states, have now become powerful tools of resistance against interference by local elites and the national government. Vividly illustrating the politically charged nature of highland communities and irrigation systems, *Water and Power in Highland Peru* provides a new framework for understanding highland communities and Peruvian cultural politics, a model that can be extended to the study of ethnic conflict and "development" in other regions of the world.

Paul H. Gelles is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. He is the co-translator of a widely used text, "Andean Lives" and the co-producer of the award-winning film, "Transnational Fiesta: 1992", also about Cabanaconde.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Water and Power in Highland Peru: The Cultural Politics of Irrigation and Development Peru: Peru Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Peru (Machu Picchu, Inca Trail, Backpacking Peru, Budget Travel Peru, Lima Travel Guide) Pure Water: The Science of Water, Waves, Water Pollution, Water Treatment, Water Therapy and Water Ecology Peru: Peru Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in Peru [Booklet] Micro Irrigation Management: Technological Advances and Their Applications (Innovations and Challenges in Micro Irrigation) Turf Irrigation Manual: The Complete Guide to Turf and Landscape Irrigation Systems Consumptive Use of Water and Irrigation Water Requirements Madera Valley 1870-1970: Irrigation Water to Drinking Water Water Clarity Secrets for Ponds and Water Gardens: The Quick and Easy Way to Crystal Clear Water (Water Garden Masters Series Book 5) Fruit Infused Water - 80 Vitamin Water Recipes for Weight Loss, Health and Detox Cleanse (Vitamin Water, Fruit Infused Water, Natural Herbal Remedies, Detox Diet, Liver Cleanse) Land Water and Power: A History of the Turlock Irrigation District 1887-1987 (Western Lands and Waters Series) Women and Alcohol in a Highland Maya Town : Water of Hope, Water of Sorrow Revised Edition A Highland Knight's Desire: Highland Dynasty, Book 2 To Love A

Highland Dragon: Highland Fantasy Romance (Dragon Lore Book 2) A Highland Betrothal (Highland Bodyguards, Book 4.5) Highland Hellion (Highland Weddings Book 3) West Highland Way, 3rd (British Walking Guide West highland Way Glasgow to Fort William: Planning, Places to Stay, Places) Southern Water, Southern Power: How the Politics of Cheap Energy and Water Scarcity Shaped a Region Amazing Pictures and Facts About Peru: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Peru (Kid's U) Peru: The Ultimate Peru Travel Guide By A Traveler For A Traveler: The Best Travel Tips; Where To Go, What To See And Much More

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)