

DOCUMENT REPORT: DESCRIBING THE “SPANIARD”

i. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is a document report on Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala’s *The First New Chronicle and Good Government*. Guaman Poma was a native Andean who wrote the abovementioned chronicle as a long “letter” accompanied by hundreds of illustrations to King Philip III of Spain in the early seventeenth century. You will carefully read through designated selections from this chronicle and view the accompanying illustrations on the website <http://www.kb.dk/elib/mss/poma/>. Your task is to think about the ways in which Guaman Poma represents Spaniards in both his writing and drawings. What kind of language does he use to describe Spaniards? How does he depict Spaniards in his drawings? Does he find any redeeming qualities in the Spaniards and their ways of life? Does he think of Spaniards as his equals or as his inferiors? Does he make distinctions between different types of Spaniards? These are just a few questions you need to ask as you work through Guaman Poma’s *First New Chronicle and Good Government*. The purpose of this assignment is to think about the different ways indigenous peoples both understood and described the “other” they were forced to encounter in their homelands. This document analysis provides you with an opportunity to exercise your historical imagination and to engage with primary sources in a critical fashion. You must think about Guaman Poma’s biases and how he viewed the world he was experiencing. In order to provide you with some context to the life and chronicle of Guaman Poma you should read the essay by Rolena Adorno cited below.

ii. Important Details

Due Date, Time, and Place: To be determined (email by midnight)

Length: [XX] pages (double-spaced, 12-font)

Sources:

- Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala. “Conquest Society in the Andes.” In *The First New Chronicle and Good Government*. Translated by David Frye (2006): 167-229.
- Rolena Adorno. “Felipe Guaman Poma: Native Writer and Litigant in Early Colonial Peru.” In *The Human Tradition in Colonial Latin America*, ed., Kenneth J. Andrien (2002): 140-163.