

DOCUMENT REPORT: EXPLORING THE LATIN AMERICAN NOVEL

1. Description and Purpose

The [first] assignment of this course is a document report on *Torn from the Nest* (1889), a novel by the Peruvian author Clorinda Matto de Turner (1854–1909). Matto de Turner was born in Cuzco; lived in various towns and cities throughout Peru as a writer, journalist, and editor of several magazines and newspapers; and finished her days in exile in Buenos Aires. Her early childhood and married life in the heart of the Andean highlands exposed her to the plight of indigenous peoples and her experiences in the literary circles of Peru kept her up-to-date with the intellectual debates of her day. Matto de Turner was a staunch liberal, fierce critic of the Catholic Church, and passionate patriot in a Peru that was slowly undergoing modernization. You will carefully and critically read through *Torn from the Nest* and think about the ways in which Matto de Turner represents indigenous people in her novel. In what ways are her Indians “real” and in what ways are they “imagined”? What role do Indians play in her novel and in her overall critique of the Catholic Church? The purpose of this assignment is to reflect upon the ways in which liberal values surfaced in the writing of fiction in nineteenth-century Latin America. This document analysis is also designed to provide you with an opportunity to exercise your historical imagination and to engage with a primary source in a critical fashion. You must think about Matto de Turner’s biases and how she viewed the world she was experiencing.

2. Important Details

Due Date: To be determined (email before midnight)

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

Sources:

- Clorinda Matto de Turner. *Torn from the Nest*, trans. John H. R. Polt (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).