

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/peru-since-independence/>

This video is a transcription of a talk where the speaker discusses their recent book about Peru, motivated by the Covid pandemic. The author began writing due to the halted academic and travel opportunities, focusing on the lack of contemporary textbooks on Peru, as the last one in English had not been published for 20 years. They engaged extensively with Peruvian historiography, emphasizing the complexity of Peru's national history, particularly post-independence, which they describe as chaotic and tumultuous.

During their trip to Peru, coinciding with the inauguration of President Pedro Castillo, the author experienced firsthand the political tensions and social dynamics in the country. They explore themes of race, class, and geography, noting the significant divides between the darker-skinned indigenous population and the lighter-skinned political elite. The author aims to present a synthesis of existing scholarship rather than a narrow monograph, hoping to make the material accessible to a broader audience.

The book includes both historical narratives and standalone chapters on contemporary life and culture in Peru, discussing the rise of popular media, film, and literature. Ultimately, the author seeks to illustrate Peru's importance in understanding broader Latin American issues and the challenges faced by third-world countries, inviting readers to engage with this diverse and complex nation.