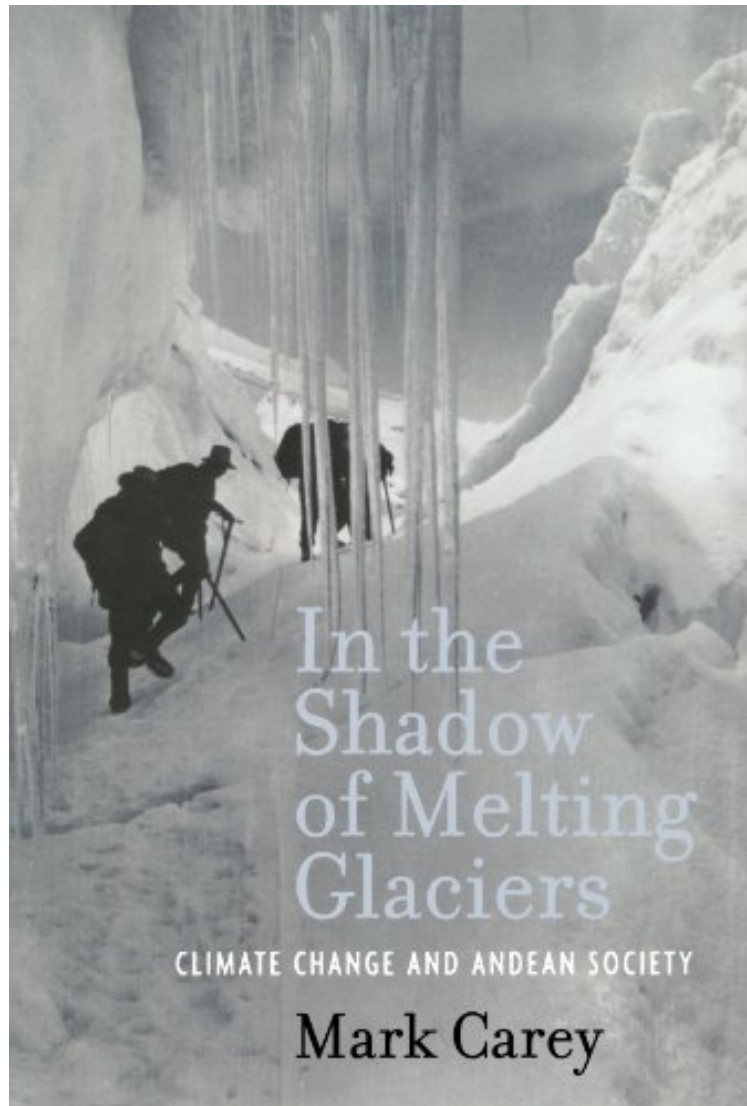


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In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society

Mark Carey

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Mark Carey : In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society:

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right there and you shiver at the thought that all glaciers are melting. It ain't right.....4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers is TremendousBy QuinnThis new book is simply fantastic. It puts a real, human face on the complex abstractions we associate with climate change. The writing is sharp, alive and makes plain the author's authentic and deep understanding of his subject. Carey manages to make technical and historical matters not only entirely accessible but extremely interesting. The book reads like a story yet teaches like a text. I've read so much about climate change and I think In the Shadow of Melting Glaciers is the most important addition to climate change work since An Inconvenient Truth. Can't recommend it enough.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. College-level collections strong in climate change and South American experiences need thisBy Midwest Book ReviewIn the Shadow of Melting Glaciers: Climate Change and Andean Society provides a strong survey of the science and social impact of melting glaciers, using Andean social experience as the foundation for this survey. How glacier melt affects real people on a daily basis is presented in this focus on how the Andean people have witnessed, experienced, and handled the effects of climate change and natural disasters for more than a century. College-level collections strong in climate change and South American experiences need this.

Climate change is producing profound changes globally. Yet we still know little about how it affects real people in real places on a daily basis because most of our knowledge comes from scientific studies that try to estimate impacts and project future climate scenarios. This book is different, illustrating in vivid detail how people in the Andes have grappled with the effects of climate change and ensuing natural disasters for more than half a century. In Peru's Cordillera Blanca mountain range, global climate change has generated the world's most deadly glacial lake outburst floods and glacier avalanches, killing 25,000 people since 1941. As survivors grieved, they formed community organizations to learn about precarious glacial lakes while they sent priests to the mountains, hoping that God could calm the increasingly hostile landscape. Meanwhile, Peruvian engineers working with miniscule budgets invented innovative strategies to drain dozens of the most unstable lakes that continue forming in the twenty first century. But adaptation to global climate change was never simply about engineering the Andes to eliminate environmental hazards. Local urban and rural populations, engineers, hydroelectric developers, irrigators, mountaineers, and policymakers all perceived and responded to glacier melting differently-based on their own view of an ideal Andean world. Disaster prevention projects involved debates about economic development, state authority, race relations, class divisions, cultural values, the evolution of science and technology, and shifting views of nature. Over time, the influx of new groups to manage the Andes helped transform glaciated mountains into commodities to consume. Locals lost power in the process and today comprise just one among many stakeholders in the high Andes-and perhaps the least powerful. Climate change transformed a region, triggering catastrophes while simultaneously jumpstarting modernization processes. This book's historical perspective illuminates these trends that would be ignored in any scientific projections about future climate scenarios.

Carey the historian has brought a valuable insight into the way a society functions or malfunctions in facing up to the impacts of climate change. --Hot Topic: Global Warming and the Future of New ZealandCarey throws some comparative light and insight on how many communities world-wide will have to deal with either disappearing glaciers (Andes, Himalayas, Canada) or reduced snow-pack. --Acequias and Adjudication: A blog on water rights in New MexicoIn the Shadow of Melting Glaciers shows us a region of the planet experiencing the effects of climate change and writes a fascinating, nuanced history of people trying to cope with the changes. --Social Science Research Council, IDRFBlog ExchangeIf the characteristics of first-rate historical scholarship are solid primary research, rigorous analysis and masterful narrative, Carey has supplied them all in buckets --A Contracorriente, A Journal on Social History and Literature in Latin AmericaMark Carey in this book has crafted a well-written narration of the history of glacial lakes and glacier-related hazards in the Peruvian Andes and their interrelation with socioeconomic development in the region. --Mountain Research and DevelopmentAbout the AuthorMark Carey is an Assistant Professor of History in the Robert D. Clark Honors College, University of Oregon.