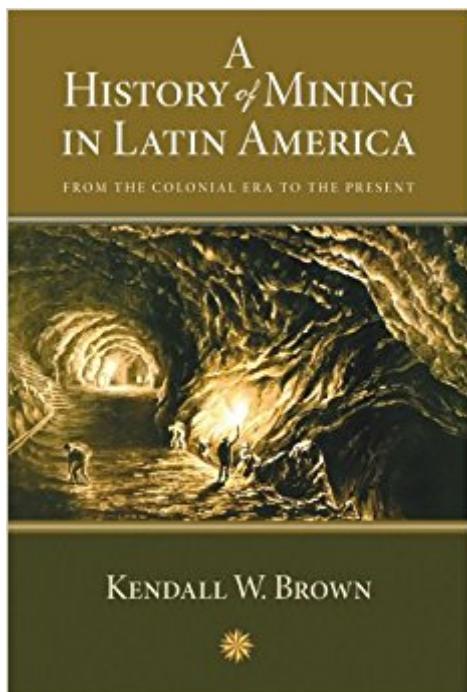


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# A History Of Mining In Latin America: From The Colonial Era To The Present (DiÁlogos Series)



## **Synopsis**

For twenty-five years, Kendall Brown studied Potosí, Spanish America's greatest silver producer and perhaps the world's most famous mining district. He read about the flood of silver that flowed from its Cerro Rico and learned of the toil of its miners. Potosí symbolized fabulous wealth and unbelievable suffering. New World bullion stimulated the formation of the first world economy but at the same time it had profound consequences for labor, as mine operators and refiners resorted to extreme forms of coercion to secure workers. In many cases the environment also suffered devastating harm. All of this occurred in the name of wealth for individual entrepreneurs, companies, and the ruling states. Yet the question remains of how much economic development mining managed to produce in Latin America and what were its social and ecological consequences. Brown's focus on the legendary mines at Potosí and comparison of its operations to those of other mines in Latin America is a well-written and accessible study that is the first to span the colonial era to the present.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Brown's focus on the legendary mines at Potosí and comparison of its operations to those of other mines in Latin America is a well-written and accessible study that is the first to span the colonial era to the present.

Kendall W. Brown is professor of Latin American history at Brigham Young University.

## Excellent

Interest in a topic such as this appears to be limited, which is too bad. Resource extraction in Latin America is central to its history and the silver (mostly) was important in world trade, from China to Portugal. This book focuses mostly on Potosi, but also considers Peru, Mexico and Brazil. Brazil in colonial times produced gold and diamonds. Only metals are examined--silver, gold, tin, copper. There is not much in the book about economic history. This is more about technologies, such as they were, systems of labor (often nearly a death sentence), administrative matters and overall organization. It starts with pre-Columbian and colonial mining, then mining in the post-colonial era. The inclusion of Brazil gives this book a wider than usual focus. The amount of precious metals over time is huge and one wonders how much the continent has to show for it. This is a solidly researched and well-written history. Books on the general subject often are dull. This one is not and has a great deal of information to offer the interested reader.

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