

A NOTE ON ORTHOGRAPHY

ALTHOUGH I HAVE written this book in English, three other languages appear on its pages. The research for this book was conducted primarily in Bolivian Quechua. It was originally the language used by the Inca to administer their far-flung territories in the Andean region, but millions of people still speak Quechua today. I use many Quechua terms throughout the text and have relied on several Quechua dictionaries and grammar books (Cusihuamán 1976; Herrero and Sánchez de Lozada 1983; Lara 1991; and Morató and Morató 1993). All Quechua words and phrases are italicized at first use but are otherwise unmarked. Spanish terms are italicized at first use and indicated by the abbreviation “Sp.” The indigenous language Aymara appears in a few instances, indicated by the abbreviation “Ay.”

For many place names, I follow the customary spelling rather than proper orthography. For example I spell the name of the provincial town Pocoata as it appears in most maps and documents. The Quechua spelling of the word would be Pukwata. Personal names follow the Spanish spelling in most cases. Except where indicated otherwise, the stress in Quechua words is always placed on the penultimate syllable. The Quechua plural *-kuna* indicates a collection of several similar things and is not strictly equivalent to the English plural. In most cases,

however, I have pluralized Quechua words by using the English plural *-s*. In a few instances both singular and plural are indicated by one word (e.g., *arku*). When a word is drawn from Spanish I use the Spanish plural *-s*.

The Quechua language was first written in the context of Spanish colonialism, which has influenced its orthography. One controversial aspect has been whether Quechua should be written with three vowels or with five (as in Spanish). In most cases, I have followed the system of using three vowels: /a/ like the *a* in “all,” /i/ like the *i* in “hit,” and /u/ like the *oo* in “hoot.” I have limited my use of /e/ and /o/ (which are variants of /i/ and /u/, respectively) to unassimilated Spanish words.

Quechua speakers recognize several consonant sounds. English speakers use some of these sounds but do not recognize them as indicating different meanings. For example, the *t* in “tan” is aspirated (carries a breath behind it), in contrast to the *t* in “hit,” which is unaspirated. Quechua speakers would recognize these as two distinct consonants: the aspirated consonant is /th/ as in *thanta* (old, ragged) and the unaspirated consonant is /t/ as in *tanta* (together). In addition, some consonants in Quechua use a voiceless glottal stop, in which the flow of air in the throat is stopped momentarily. This is indicated by an apostrophe: /t'/ as in *t'anta* (bread). English *ch*, *k*, *p*, *q*, and *t* all have these three variants in Quechua. Some consonants are similar to those in English (for example, /m/ as in “man”) or in Spanish (for example, /ll/ as in *llama*). Finally, certain sounds appear only in words derived from Spanish: /d/ like the *d* in “dog,” /f/ like the *f* in “fun,” /g/ like the *g* in “great,” and /v/ like the *v* in “vet.”