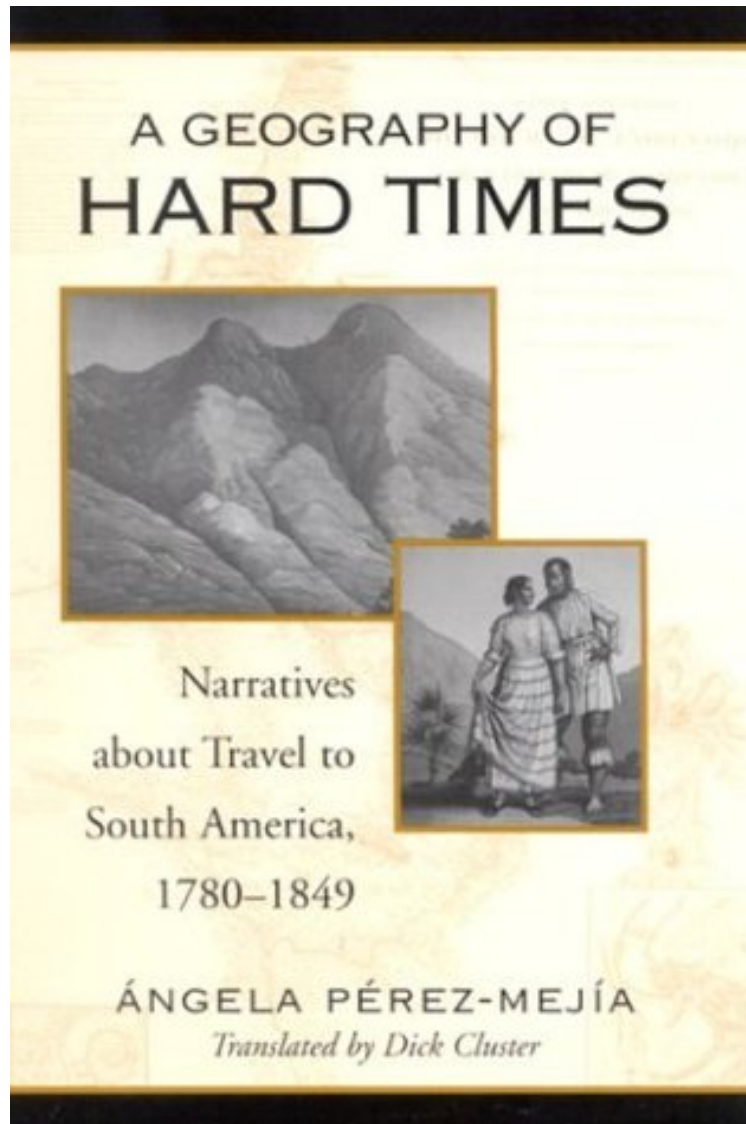


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## **A Geography of Hard Times: Narratives about Travel to South America, 1780-1849 (SUNY Series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture)**

*Angela Perez-Mejia*

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**Angela Perez-Mejia : A Geography of Hard Times: Narratives about Travel to South America, 1780-1849 (SUNY Series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Geography of Hard Times: Narratives about Travel to South

America, 1780-1849 (SUNY Series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture):

This fascinating glimpse into South America's past focuses on the works of four European voyagers who came to South America and left a legacy of travel writing in their wake: Jose Celestino Mutis, a Spanish botanist and doctor; Alexander von Humboldt, a German geographer; Maria Graham, a British historian; and Flora Tristan, a French feminist and labor activist whose father was Peruvian. Each took on his or her voyage as a personal endeavor, and collectively their travels covered the Andes from its northern traces in Venezuela to the southern heights of Chile and Arequipa. Their writing contributed to the construction of a complex map of the Andes in which many levels of physical and social geography may be read. By analyzing the travelers' narratives, illustrations, and maps, Angela Perez-Mejia unravels the rich complexities of the colonial travel experience, explores its impact on both the object of description and the traveler's subjectivity, and the collective readership seeking a discourse of nationhood.

""A Geography of Hard Times will serve a range of intellectual needs, and look different from the differing disciplinary perspectives we bring to it. In its novel involvements in both the natural and social sciences, both male and female writing, in writers from four different European societies, Perez-Mejia's book is especially rich in provocative juxtapositions and propositions. It argues above all, and in valuable detail, the centrality of the still too-often under recognized fact that relations of influence between colonialist societies and the societies of their colonies go both ways."Perez-Mejia successfully analyzes the multiethnic Latin American society of this period, with all the social tensions that existed during the creation of the new republics emerging from Spanish control. The four European voyagers she presents are a good mirror for understanding the sometimes subtle realities that normally escape the rigid rhetoric of official historical discourse. Biography A Geography of Hard Times will serve a range of intellectual needs, and look different from the differing disciplinary perspectives we bring to it. In its novel involvements in both the natural and social sciences, in both male and female writing, in writers from four different European societies, Perez-Mejia s book is especially rich in provocative juxtapositions and propositions. It argues above all, and in valuable detail, the centrality of the still-too-often underrecognized fact that relations of influence between colonialist societies and the societies of their colonies go both ways. Mary Baine Campbell, author of Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern Europe""Perez-Mejia successfully analyzes the multiethnic Latin American society of this period, with all the social tensions that existed during the creation of the new republics emerging from Spanish control. The four European voyagers she presents are a good mirror for understanding the sometimes subtle realities that normally escape the rigid rhetoric of official historical discourse." -- Biography "A Geography of Hard Times will serve a range of intellectual needs, and look different from the differing disciplinary perspectives we bring to it. In its novel involvements in both the natural and social sciences, in both male and female writing, in writers from four different European societies, Perez-Mejia's book is especially rich in provocative juxtapositions and propositions. It argues above all, and in valuable detail, the centrality of the still-too-often underrecognized fact that relations of influence between colonialist societies and the societies of their colonies go both ways." -- Mary Baine Campbell, author of Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern EuropeFrom the Back CoverThis fascinating glimpse into South America's past focuses on the works of four European voyagers who came to South America and left a legacy of travel writing in their wake: Jos Celestino Mutis, a Spanish botanist and doctor; Alexander von Humboldt, a German geographer; Maria Graham, a British historian; and Flora Tristn, a French feminist and labor activist whose father was Peruvian. Each took on his or her voyage as a personal endeavor, and collectively their travels covered the Andes from its northern traces in Venezuela to the southern heights of Chile and Arequipa. Their writing contributed to the construction of a complex map of the Andes in which many levels of physical and social geography may be read. By analyzing the travelers' narratives, illustrations, and maps, ngela Prez-Meja unravels the rich complexities of the colonial travel experience, explores its impact on both the object of description and the traveler's subjectivity, and the collective readership seeking a discourse of nationhood.About the AuthorAngela Perez-Mejia is an Associate Professor in the Romance and Comparative Literature Department at Brandeis University. The Spanish version of this book won honorable mention in the literary essay category, International Literary Prize, Casa de las Americas, Cuba, 2000.