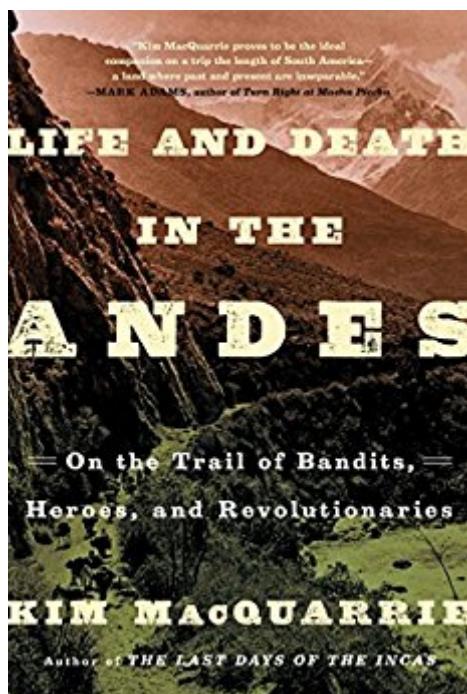


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# Life And Death In The Andes: On The Trail Of Bandits, Heroes, And Revolutionaries



## **Synopsis**

Unique portraits of legendary characters along South America's mountain spine, from Charles Darwin to the present day, told by a master traveler and observer. The Andes Mountains are the world's longest mountain chain, linking most of the countries in South America. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and author Kim MacQuarrie takes us on a historical journey through this unique region, bringing fresh insight and contemporary connections to such fabled characters as Charles Darwin, Pablo Escobar, Che Guevara, and many others. He describes the floating islands of Lake Titicaca, where people's lives depend entirely on a reed that grows there. He introduces us to a Patagonian woman who is the last living speaker of her language, as he explores the disappearance and sometimes surprising resiliency of indigenous cultures throughout the Andes. He meets a man whose grandfather witnessed Butch Cassidy's last days in Bolivia, tracks down the ballet dancer who once hid the leader of the brutal Shining Path in her home, and hears a harrowing story from the school teacher who gave Che Guevara his final meal. Through the stories he shares, MacQuarrie raises such questions as, where did the people of South America come from? Did they create or import their cultures? What makes South America different from other continents--and what makes the cultures of the Andes different from other cultures in South America? Why did Peru's Shining Path leader Guzmán nearly succeed in his revolutionary quest while Che Guevara in Bolivia so quickly failed? And what so astounded Charles Darwin in South America that led him to conceive the theory of evolution? Deeply observed and beautifully written, *Life and Death in the Andes* shows us this land as no one has before.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is an excellent history of the Spanish conquest of Peru and its aftermath. Detailed history of Inca resistance and initial losses. It was a much hard fought colonization than usually presented in history books. Give lush detail on the activities of the later Inca emperor in their struggle to rid themselves of the Spanish. The one drawback is that MacQuarrie give little credit to the Indian allies of the Spanish. He makes it sound like a small band of Spanish on horses fended off hundreds of thousands of the Incas and their allies in one siege that last for more than a year. At the same time, it is clear that the Incas had powerful native enemies. This part of the story is hardly convincing. Otherwise it is a great read,

Really enjoyed the short story style of writing. And how all the stories pieced together. Now looking for more of MacQuarrie's books

Good story telling and interesting facts that you do not read in the stories of these people. Two sides of the stories are told beautifully

Great read. Very informative and well written.

Slow read.

Good series of South American history stories

Got it for a friend and she was very pleased

I lived in Peru for many years and Kim MacQuarrie's book "The Last Days of the Incas" was my constant reference book during that time period. Needless to say, I was ecstatic to learn of his

writing "Life and Death in the Andes" and pre-ordered many months before the release on December 1st. I've been glued to the book since.Kim has the ability to share so much knowledge and detail on cultural, historical, anthropological, geographical, environmental, etc aspects but in a way that leaves you not wanting to put the book down and as if you are along on a great adventure story. He is not only a leading authority on all things South American, but a true adventurer as well,so his descriptions are amazing and keep you turning pages but at the same time learning so, so much.This book reminds me a lot of a few of my other favorite books on South America; "One River" by Wade Davis, and "Running the " and "Savages" by author Joe Kane. But if I was headed to South America and was to take along just one, it would be "Life and Death in the Andes" due to the scope and variety of stories contained within.A must buy book for anyone interested in South America, adventure, history, cultures..the list goes on!

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