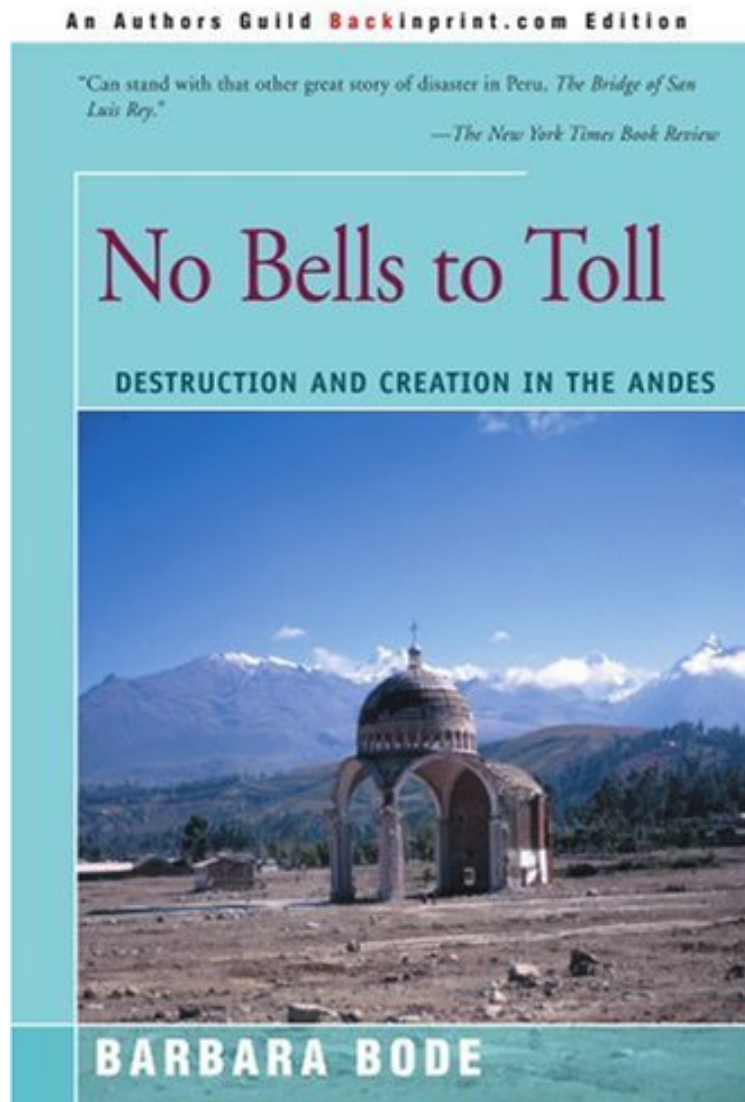


No Bells to Toll: Destruction and Creation in the Andes

Barbara Bode

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#3621325 in BooksColor: Blue Barbara Bode 2001-05-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.59 x 6.00l, 2.03 #File Name: 0595174434636 pagesNo Bells to Toll Destruction and Creation in the Andes | File size: 59.Mb

Barbara Bode : No Bells to Toll: Destruction and Creation in the Andes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Bells to Toll: Destruction and Creation in the Andes:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you get something from reading true stories about natural disasters, this is one for you.By DFWhile this reads more like a documentary than a story, it is all true. I first read it as a library book about 18 years ago, and it got such a grip on my imagination that I couldn't forget it. Years and years

later, I was still sporadically trying to find it to read again, but I had remembered the title wrong and the library no longer had it. Finally, the name of the town came to me, and that led to something online that mentioned the name of the mountain involved in the avalanche, and I was recently able to locate a copy of the book. I don't know if I'll be keeping it, because I recall that some parts were a bit boring (It seems disrespectful to the victims to say such a thing.); but I consider any book that haunts me the way this one did to be worth a second read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super book full of important ideas and information!

By Ron Winter
Barbara Bode gives a detailed description of the devastation and response of the victims of the 1970 earthquake and alluviones in the Peruvian Callejon de Huaylas. Not only does she describe the physical destruction and 70,000 death toll in valuable detail, but she presents the cultural and psychological background of the area and how that affected the response of the people to their plight. The Lord of Solitude was introduced as an important factor in the culture of Huaraz and surrounding area. I lived in the area for two years, one of which was across the Plaza Soledad from the church. I was married to a local woman and was somewhat acquainted with the area and culture. Ms. Bode did a great piece of work.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Memorandum of a Human Catastrophe

By Lalo Robles
No Bells to Toll. Memorandum of a Human Catastrophe, 16th November 2001
Reviewer: Lalo Robles (see more about me) in Madrid, Spain.
No Bells to Toll tells of a tragedy brought about by an earthquake so vividly that the reader is inexorably drawn into a world shattered by pain and desolation. This book allows the survivors of the terrible catastrophe which happened in 1970 in the Andean region of northern Peru known as Callejn de Huaylas to tell their story. It contains the testimonies of simple peasants who have never had any voice in the official record. No Bells to Toll describes one of the manifestations of Andean thought in the way the peasants interpret their universe and understand religion, especially through their fervent worship of the local Christ-figure (Seor de La Soledad). To me, this is one of the most interesting aspects of the book in describing a manifestation of Andean Catholicism which may seem merely picturesque to those unacquainted with the Andean world, but is in reality far from picturesque. The author reveals how Andean peasants have managed to keep the idea of their pre-Columbian god alive in the effigy of Seor de la Soledad. She also delves into a complex world of beliefs which go beyond appearances and make ontological sense. As in any good novel, this stirring account of the tragedy is suffused with a variety of characters: cultured individuals, peasants and anonymous voices who each express a different point of view. We learn from No Bells to Toll that in Callejn de Huaylas, myths and religious beliefs intermingle with the utmost naturalness. This is a comprehensive anthropological study which presents the natural disaster from the standpoint of survivors who use the scientific data available at the time to explain, for example, why earthquakes happen. On another level, it is interesting to see how science and myth are interchangeable concepts in the minds of survivors as they attempt to rationalise the destruction wrought by an earthquake in which 75,000 people perished. It also conveys a startling ecological message in the guilt the survivors say they feel through having caused damage, wittingly or unwittingly, to Mother Nature, which would explain the punishment meted out to them in the deaths of their loved ones and the total destruction of their town, with the loss for all time of a whole way of life. Everything was lost in the catastrophe and nobody, not even the then military government, was able to come up with an effective and immediate response. Meanwhile, behind the scenes a clash arose between disparate sections of society such as an arrogant officialdom, clergy with their internal contradictions, unprotected and unarmed surviving townspeople, and a rural community disoriented by conflicts arising from reforms introduced into religious rites. The book presents this whole background in a most vivid and honest manner. The author's admirable effort in checking everything out by eliciting, to the point of obsessiveness, the facts she believed were important, has culminated in this bang-up-to-date book of extraordinary anthropological value which has lost none of its topicality.

Lalo Robles --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"A masterly combination of ethnographic reporting with personal empathy and rare poetic insight."-Eric Wolf "The most thorough picture of all levels of society in modern Peru that I have ever read."-John Hemming, Director, Royal Geographic Society

From Library Journal
In 1970, a huge earthquake in the Peruvian Andes dislodged a mass of ice and rubble that careened down the mountainside, scouring out the contents of the valley below. The greatest recorded natural disaster of the Western hemisphere, it claimed 75,000 lives. At the scene the following year, anthropologist Bode studied the effects of the disaster--how the victims survived; how they coped or didn't cope with loss of family and homes; the rifts in the Church; and the breakdown of social classes in the aftermath. Her follow-up ten years later documents the healing that took place, how long it took, and what accommodations to reality the survivors made trying to tease meaning or purpose from their survival. An absorbing study that will be welcome in all types of libraries.- Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Lib., Gainesville
Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Can stand with that other great story of disaster in Peru, The Bridge of San Luis Rey." -- The New York Times
Book About the Author
Barbara Bode, a native of New Orleans, received her doctorate in anthropology from Tulane University. She has taught at the University of Victoria, Fordham, and the University of Rhode Island, and done field work in Chile, Guatemala, Costa

Rica, and Peru. She lives in New York.