

BLANCO, Hugo. Land or death; the peasant struggle in Peru. Pathfinder, 1972. 178p il map 73-186689. 6.95, 2.45 pa.

Blanco, Trotskyist leader of an early 1960s peasant movement near Cuzco, Peru, has written an extremely important primary document. The chapters on chronology and geographical, economic, and social conditions are incomplete and one should consult the works of Wesley Craig and Hugo Neira, but Blanco's descriptions of the movement itself, formation of a party apparatus (an admitted failure), schisms in the Peruvian left, and the decision to use armed force are excellent. One important aspect of the work is Blanco's account of divisions between Trotskyites and the Peruvian Communist party (referred to as Stalinists), including Communist attempts to sabotage the peasant movement. Nowhere is this clearer than in Blanco's decision to initiate guerrilla action. Ché Guevara had similar experiences in Bolivia, demonstrating the near impossibility of establishing a united leftist front in most of Latin America. Part II contains important letters, manifestos, and short stories written by Blanco while in prison, including the famous "To my people," several calls for student assistance, and an analysis of the government, oligarchy, and peasants. Many explanatory footnotes; fine glossary of foreign words; adequate index. A must for all undergraduate and graduate libraries.

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