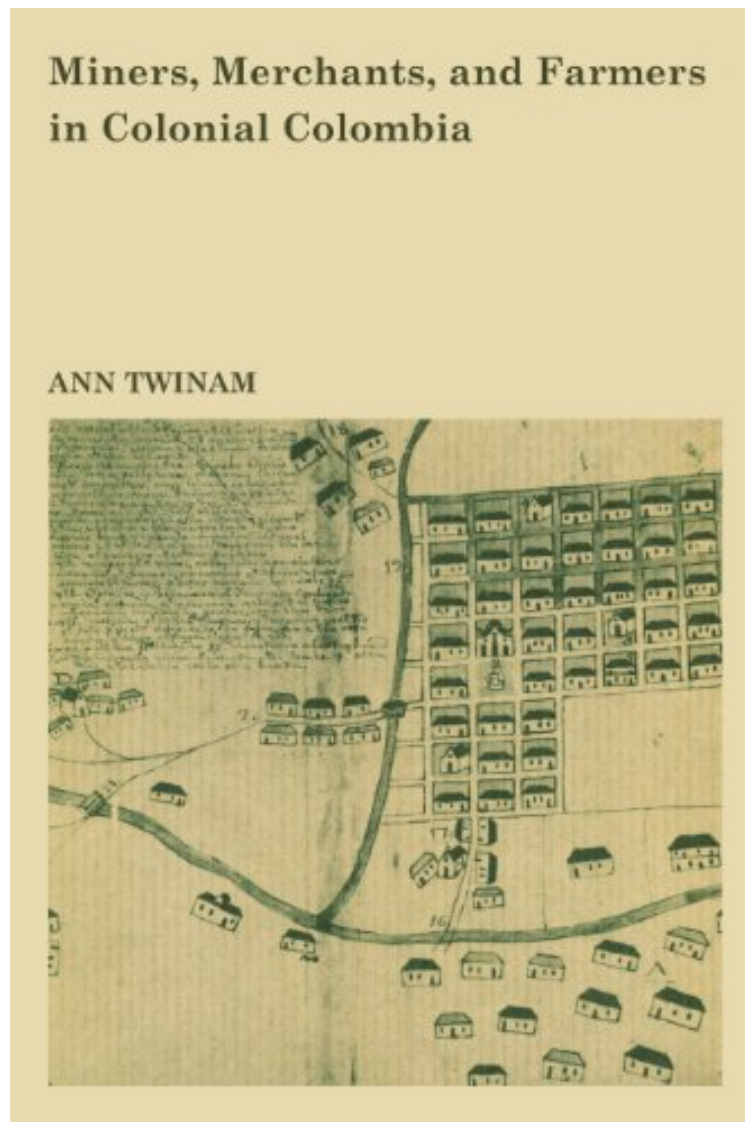


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Miners, Merchants, and Farmers in Colonial Colombia (Lilas Latin American Monograph)

Ann Twinam

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Ann Twinam : Miners, Merchants, and Farmers in Colonial Colombia (Lilas Latin American Monograph) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miners, Merchants, and Farmers in Colonial Colombia (Lilas Latin American Monograph):

The inhabitants of the department of Antioquia in north-central Colombia have played a unique role in that country's economic history. During the colonial period Antioquian placer miners supplied a substantial portion of New Granada's gold exports. Their nineteenth-century descendants pioneered investments in lode mining, colonization, international commerce, banking, stock raising, tobacco, and coffee. In the twentieth century, Antioquians initiated the industrialization of the regional capital, Medellín. Many theories have been set forth to account for the special energy and initiative of Antioquians. They range from ethnic and psychological interpretations (Antioquians are descended from Jews or Basques; they are driven to succeed because of status deprivation) to historical explanations that emphasize their geographic isolation, mining heritage, or the coffee-export economy. In *Miners, Merchants, and Farmers in Colonial Colombia*, Ann Twinam critiques these theories and sets forth her own revisionist interpretation of Antioquian enterprise. Rather than emphasize the alien or deviant in Antioquian psychology or culture, Twinam re-creates the region's late colonial economic and social structure and attributes the origins of Antioquian enterprise to a particular mix of human and natural resources that directed the region's development toward capital accumulation and reinvestment. Although the existing limitations of their colonial environment may have forced Antioquians along enterprising pathways initially, the continuation of Antioquian investments to the present day suggests that their adaptation to a specific economic reality became a way of life transcending the historical conditions that created it.

About the Author Ann Twinam received her PhD in Latin American history from Yale University in 1976. She is Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin.