



## Inka History in Knots: Reading Khipus as Primary Sources (Paperback)

By Gary Urton

University of Texas Press, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Winner, PROSE Award, Biological Anthropology, Ancient History, Archaeology, Association of American Publishers (AAP), 2018 Inka khipus-spun and plied cords that record information through intricate patterns of knots and colors-constitute the only available primary sources on the Inka empire not mediated by the hands, minds, and motives of the conquering Europeans. As such, they offer direct insight into the worldview of the Inka-a view that differs from European thought as much as khipus differ from alphabetic writing, which the Inka did not possess. Scholars have spent decades attempting to decipher the Inka khipus, and Gary Urton has become the world's leading authority on these artifacts. In *Inka History in Knots*, Urton marshals a lifetime of study to offer a grand overview of the types of quantitative information recorded in khipus and to show how these records can be used as primary sources for an Inka history of the empire that focuses on statistics, demography, and the longue duree social processes that characterize a civilization continuously adapting to and exploiting its environment. Whether the Inka khipu keepers were registering census data, recording tribute, or performing...



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