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Kampen om godsen
Två fallstudier från Valle Sagrado under den sista perioden av det andinska storgodsägarväldet

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Abstract

The Struggle for the haciendas. Two case studies from Valle Sagrado during the last period of the Andean hacienda regime. Written in Swedish with an English summary.

This thesis is a diachronic analysis of the actions of two estate owners, hacendados, during the last decades of the hacienda regime in Peru, that is from the beginning of the 1940s until the middle of the 1970s. The highly conflictive period ended in the most radical land reform in South American history. Since the social question dominated the whole period the analysis has focused on the relations between the landlord and his Indian labour force and especially on the mechanisms for maintaining social control and stability on the haciendas. By using a comparative method on a micro level and analysing the social relations in terms of disposition rather than possession, the thesis tries to offer an alternative interpretation of the power relations between the Andean landlord and his Indian labourers, relations that cannot be reduced to structures of property and exploitation. The landed estate was much more than a unit of production. It was a way of life, a society unto itself. This does not mean that the relations between rulers and ruled were clearly settled once and for all. Instead, they were highly complicated and constantly changing. Due to this fact the thesis claims that the landlord was less powerful than usually assumed and subsequently forced to develop different strategies in order to maintain control over his property. However, these strategies varied from one hacienda to another and from one period to another. The thesis also tries to explain why two neighbouring hacendados chose different control methods when faced with the same problems and its implications for the agrarian sector.

Key words: the Andean landlord, the Andean agrarian society, social control, social instability, relations of disposition, habitus, cultural and social capital, agrarian reform.