



Aclimatación en los Andes - Confirmaciones históricas sobre la "Agresión climática" en el desenvolvimiento de las sociedades de América [

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text (article)

Analítica

Reversible actions and reactions between organism and environment in regard to life upon the American high plateaus lead to an adaptive process whose goal is acclimatization. As a consequence of the alluded interactions the organism may become adjusted either to live in the altitude individual acclimatization or to live and to reproduce, race acclimatization. To the author this phase of adjustment (adaptation) implies a form of Mountain Sickness to which he was the first to call attention in 1928. When Mountain Sickness is cured, acclimatization supervenes. Some men never get acclimatized. They develop Chronic Mountain Sickness and die. A form of survival is migration to the low lands. The environment assailment-climatic aggression, may be defined as the noxious action of the Andean climate ("temple", from the Greek, meaning "dwelling-place") upon the dwellers from low lands and that of the sea coast upon the mountain men. The physiographic forces act upon the individual and the race in such a definite way that the behavior of high plateau societies has been confronted by its perennial influence. Thus it is not surprising that it can be traced in the historic documents and books about Tahuantisuyo and the Colonial Spanish Epoch. It has been proved that these facts were contemplated in the Inca's social legislation and that Pachacutec and other kings took advantage of their knowledge in their war tactics (Garcilaso de la Vega). Climatic aggression can be traced also in human and animal reproduction. The "San Nicolas de Tolentino miracle" concerning the first offspring born from Spanish ascendance fifty years after the Spaniards arrived at Potosi (12000 feet altitude), finds that the biological explanation is through a slow process of progressive race acclimatization of the human species. The act of foundation of Lima (Lima, the capital of Perú, was founded in 1535 and is 500 feet above sea level). points out that the capital was transferred from Jauja (10,500 feet al

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