



"Desarrollos" fallidos en la minería histórica: Famatina y Capillitas, apuntes para pensar el presente socioambiental [

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Analítica

This paper deals with the working conditions and the socio-environmental consequences of large-scale mining in the provinces of La Rioja and Catamarca, Argentina, between 1850 and 1914. It analyzes the evolution of the largest mines, Famatina and Capillitas. We affirm that the mining companies' appropriation of the workers' wages and the exploitation of natural resources influenced the crises of these historic mines. These crises led to the abandonment of ore-rich sites for decades, and even did away with regional economic approaches that were based on large-scale mining, which initially seemed like a solution to the region's problems, according to the governing elite. Even though the clearest causes of abandonment were high costs and difficult access for transportation, in addition to unfavorable economic and political situations in the country and in the world, other socio-environmental causes, which we highlight, have not been sufficiently evaluated. We rely on the critical analysis of historical documents, from perspectives and methodologies appropriate for climate history, sociology, and political ecology. We hope to contribute to issues that are essential for understanding the contradictions of our time, as mining is currently being debated in these same areas and sites

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