



Where is the Money?

**Justice, Aristotelian ‘Economic Thought,’ and the Inca Empire
in Inca Garcilaso’s *Royal Commentaries* (1609)**

Early Modern Spanish political thought linked the absence of currency (‘money’) with barbarity, offering Spaniards a reason to wage ‘just war’ against ‘uncivilized’ communities allegedly incapable of political autonomy. Since Spaniards did not find money when they arrived in the Andes, *mestizo* historian Inca Garcilaso de la Vega faces a grave issue in his textual defense of the Inca empire, *Royal Commentaries of the Incas* (1609): how to admit to the Incas’ lack of money, and simultaneously claim that this lacking did not preclude them from achieving the kind of well-being and autarchy that Aristotle identified with an ordered and autonomous political community?

a public lecture by

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