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Título: Relación de Michoacán, The: (1539-1541) And The Politics Of Representation In Co

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The Relacion de Michoacan (1539-1541) is one of the earliest surviving illustrated manuscripts from colonial Mexico. Commissioned by the Spanish viceroy Antonio de Mendoza, the Relacion was produced by a Franciscan friar together with indigenous noble informants and anonymous native artists who created its forty-four illustrations. To this day, the Relacion remains the primary source for studying the pre-Columbian practices and history of the people known as Tarascans or P'urhepecha. However, much remains to be said about how the Relacion's colonial setting shaped its final form. By looking at the Relacion in its colonial context, this study reveals how it presented the indigenous collaborators a unique opportunity to shape European perceptions of them while settling conflicting agendas, outshining competing ethnic groups, and carving a place for themselves in the new colonial society. Through archival research and careful visual analysis, Angelica Afanador-Pujol provides a new and fascinating account that situates the manuscript's images within the colonial conflicts that engulfed the indigenous collaborators. These conflicts ranged from disputes over political posts among indigenous factions to labor and land disputes against Spanish newcomers. Afanador-Pujol explores how these tensions are physically expressed in the manuscript's production and in its many contradictions between text and images, as well as in numerous emendations to the images. By studying representations of justice, landscape, conquest narratives, and genealogy within the Relacion, Afanador-Pujol clearly demonstrates the visual construction of identity, its malleability, and its political possibilities