ABSTRACT

This dissertation analyzes the origins and evolution of the Indigenist war novel (NGI) as it relates to the internal conflict between the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) fought from 1980-2000 in Peru.

This study also focuses on the present-day function fulfilled by the NGI as the principal representative giving voice to Peru's indigenous peoples and their difficulties during the period of conflict. In this way, the NGI satisfies a double role as the entity charged with both telling the unwritten history of this period and, at the same time, attempting to appease the factions that took part in the conflict. A feat that, to this date, no government or other authority has been able to achieve.

This study analyzes four works from the NGI genre: *Los ilegítimos* by Hildebrando Pérez Huarancca (1980), *Un rincón para los muertos* by Samuel Cavero (1986), *Retablo* by Julián Pérez (2004), and *Abril Rojo* by Santiago Roncagliolo (2006). My analysis centers on the different accounts of the Peruvian internal conflict proposed by these novels, which I consider to be the most important (rather than the only) examples of this genre to date.

Additionally, this project proposes a classification of the NGI based on three elements: the level of the author's participation in the conflict, the type of fiction, and the narrative techniques employed. These combined elements present, in very distinct ways, descriptions, characteristics, and solutions that I term "the dolorous real," or the trauma that civil war produced in the country that the narrators of the genre, in various ways, try to transmit in their fictional tellings.

In contrast to previous work on the subject, more than classifying the growing number of Indigenist war novels as "authentic" or "inauthentic" based on the author's origins, the present study proposes a broader vision. Taking into account the parameters set forth by the novels studied here, I propose the NGI be presently defined by the whole of the works published in the genre (some of which are difficult to access), creating a diverse and irregular corpus often difficult to define.