



## STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (043)

TEXT: *El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes* (1773)

AUTHOR: Calixto Bustamante Carlos Inca, AKA Concolorcorvo (Alias for Alonso Carrió de la Vandra)

EDITOR: Stockcero Edition

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## PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

### A Colonial Road Trip and Social Satire

*El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes desde Buenos Aires hasta Lima* (1773), published under the pseudonym "Concolorcorvo", is a unique and seminal work offering a vivid and critical glimpse into colonial life in South America between 1771 and 1773.

Often attributed to either Don Alonso Carrió de la Vandra (the commissioner of the postal reform described in the book) or his alleged secretary, Calixto Bustamante Carlos Inca, the text ingeniously blends official reportage with a travelogue and biting satire.

### The Journey as a Mirror of Colonial Society

The narrative meticulously traces the itinerary from Montevideo to Lima, passing through key cities like Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Salta, Potosí, Chuquisaca, and Cuzco. Beyond practical travel details, *El lazarillo* provides a detailed panorama of the customs, attitudes, and social structures of the Spanish American colonies. It critiques the administrative inefficiencies, the treatment of indigenous populations ("mitayos"), and the prevailing social hierarchies with sharp wit and irony.

### Authorship and Narrative Voice

The debate over "Concolorcorvo's" true identity –whether it was the erudite Alonso Carrió de la Vandra or the shrewd Calixto Bustamante Carlos Inca– adds another layer of intrigue to the text.

Regardless of the actual author, the narrative voice is distinct: knowledgeable, cynical, and often resorting to a "new sentiment of nature, very alien to that expressed until then by the letters and documents of the colonial era" (José Luis Busaniche). This voice masterfully balances detailed observation with sarcastic commentary, often cloaking its most audacious criticisms in seemingly lighthearted anecdotes.

### Critique of Colonial Practices and Attitudes

The book serves as a powerful, albeit often humorous, critique of various aspects of colonial life. It addresses the perceived indolence of the indigenous populations while implicitly criticizing the Spanish colonialists' attitudes, corruption, and exploitation. The author's concern for fair treatment of indigenous workers and the efficiency of public services (such as the postal system) reflects a progressive, albeit paternalistic, reformist spirit. The work implicitly questions the "civilizing" mission of Spain by exposing the flaws and hypocrisies of its representatives and institutions.

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## PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

### **The Authorship Mystery:**

Discuss the ongoing debate surrounding the identity of "**Concolorcorvo**". How does the ambiguity of authorship influence the interpretation of the text's criticisms and perspectives?

### **Travelogue as Social Commentary:**

Analyze how *El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes* functions as more than just a travel account. How does the detailed description of a journey from **Montevideo** to **Lima** become a vehicle for social, political, and cultural critique of colonial Spanish America?

### **Depiction of Colonial Life and "The Other":**

Examine **Concolorcorvo's** portrayal of different social groups in the colonies, including "gauderos," indigenous "mitayos," Spaniards, and mestizos. How does the text describe their customs, roles, and interactions, and what does it reveal about the construction of the "other"?

### **Humor, Satire, and Irony:**

Identify instances of humor, sarcasm, and irony in the text. How does **Concolorcorvo** use these literary devices to deliver his criticisms while potentially avoiding direct censorship?

### **Colonial Administration and Reform:**

Discuss the challenges and inefficiencies of colonial administration, particularly the postal service, as depicted in the book. What implicit reforms does the author suggest, and how do these reflect Enlightenment ideals?

### **The Role of the "Visitador" and "Secretary":**

Explore the dynamic between the "Visitador" **Alonso Carrió de la Vandra** and the presumed secretary **Calixto Bustamante Carlos Inca**. How does their relationship, as presented, contribute to the narrative's perspective and its critique of authority?

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## PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **Concolorcorvo.** *El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes desde Buenos Aires hasta Lima*. SpanishBookPress Edition.
- **Busaniche, José Luis.** *Historia Argentina*.
- **Mitre, Bartolomé.** *Historia de Belgrano y de la Independencia Argentina*.
- **Carrió de la Vandra, Alonso.** (Other relevant documents or studies).
- **Bustamante Carlos Inca, Calixto.** (Biographical studies).



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## PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

*What is the full title of the work discussed, indicating its geographical scope?*

- A) *Viajes por el Río de la Plata*
- B) *El lazarillo de ciegos caminantes desde Buenos Aires hasta Lima*
- C) *Crónicas del Camino Real*
- D) *La ruta de Potosí* Correct

**Answer: B**

*The pseudonym "Concolorcorvo" is associated with the supposed identity of:*

- A) A Spanish colonial official
- B) An indigenous chronicler or a secretary
- C) A French explorer
- D) A German mercenary

**Correct Answer: B**

*The book offers a detailed itinerary from which two major South American cities?*

- A) Mexico City to Bogotá
- B) Buenos Aires to Lima
- C) Santiago to Rio de Janeiro
- D) Montevideo to Caracas

**Correct Answer: B**

*What is one of the primary functions of the book, besides being a travelogue?*

- A) A religious treatise
- B) A guide to indigenous languages
- C) A social and political satire of colonial life
- D) A military strategy manual

**Correct Answer: C**

*Which prominent historian is quoted, highlighting the book's "new sentiment of nature"?*

- A) Bartolomé Mitre
- B) José Luis Busaniche
- C) Alonso Carrió de la Vandra
- D) Domingo F. Sarmiento

**Correct Answer: B**

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