

QUECHUAN LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN PERU

A brief history of state policies

1400-1531



Multilingualism

1400: the Incan Empire establishes Quechua as the *runa simi* (language of the people). Other languages are supported.

1532-1780



Colonisation

1532: The Spanish invade Peru. Up to two-thirds of the Indigenous population is killed.
1533: Castellano becomes the official state language.

1781-1971



Language ban

1781: The Spanish ban Quechua from theatre and literature to quell rebellion.
1792: Spanish set up schools to eradicate Indigenous languages.

1972-1992



Bilingualism

1972: Language ban lifted.
1975: Quechua legally recognised as a state language.
Quechuan education introduced.
1979: Constitutional recognition of Quechua & Aimara.

1993-2006



Language rights

1993: New constitution enshrines language rights to: protect ethnic and cultural identity, access translation when using social services, & improve bilingual education.

2007-PRESENT



Individual rights

2007: legislation on individual rights for the use & preservation of Indigenous languages. Some regions expand bilingual education & mandate Quechuan bilingualism for public servants.