

History of the Borders of Peru and Bolivia

Purpose

Illustrated philatelic history of the conflicts that established the borders of Peru and Bolivia.

Plan

1. Inca Empire
2. Spanish conquest
3. War of Independence
4. Peru-Bolivian Confederation
5. War of the Pacific
6. Acre War
7. Plebiscite of Tacna-Arica
8. Leticia incident
9. War of the Great Chaco
10. Ecuadorian-Peruvian War

Development

Composed according to Postal History subclass 2c: Historical, Social and Special Studies.

Story

Approximately 600 years ago the **Inca Empire** encompassed present-day Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and northern Chile.

In the 16th century, the **Spanish Empire** conquered large parts of the coastal areas of South America and established the Viceroyalty of Peru that ruled Spanish-ruled South America from the capital of Lima.

The Wars of Independence of South America from Spain began in the early 19th century, triggered by the collapse of the Bourbon dynasty and the Spanish War of Independence. The **Peruvian War of Independence** (1811-1826), with the proclamation of the independence of Peru by José de San Martín on July 28, 1821, was sealed with the Battle of Ayacucho on December 9, 1824.

Alto Perú, at that time part of the Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata, after the Bolivian War of Independence, became an independent country and was renamed **Bolivia** in honour of Simón Bolívar.

The **Peru-Bolivian Confederation** consisted from 1837 to 1939.

The **War of the Pacific** was a war between Chile and a Bolivian-Peruvian alliance. It lasted from 1879 to 1884. Chile acquired the Peruvian territory of Tarapacá, the disputed Bolivian department of Litoral (making Bolivia a landlocked country), as well as temporary control over the Peruvian provinces of Tacna and Arica.

The **Acre War** (1899-1903) was a border conflict between Bolivia and Brazil, and ended with a Brazilian victory that ceded Acre to Brazil. The result also affected the territories in dispute with Peru.

The **Tacna-Arica Compromise** of 1929 gave the provinces of Arica to Chile and Tacna to Peru.

The **Leticia Incident** was a short-lived armed conflict between Colombia and Peru over the territory of the Amazon rainforest. In the end, they reached an agreement for Colombia to stay with one part and Peru with another part.

The **Chaco War** (1932-1935) was fought between Bolivia and Paraguay for control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region. The latest peace treaties granted two-thirds of the disputed territories to Paraguay.

The **Ecuadorian-Peruvian War** (July 5-31, 1941). It was the first of three military conflicts between Ecuador and Peru during the 20th century. A ceasefire agreement between the two countries entered into force on July 31, 1941. Both countries signed the Rio Protocol on January 29, 1942, and the Peruvian forces subsequently withdrew. The enmity over the territorial dispute continued after 1942 and ended after the Cenepa War of 1995 and the signing of the Presidential Act of Brasilia in October 1998.

Highlights

1-5. One of the oldest known covers from Peru with pre-philatelic markings

1-6. Letter with the postal mark "VYVA FERNANDO 7"

1-7. The only known multiple used of the "San Martín" inverted

2-1. Bolivian cover with the postmark "Paz de Ayacucho"

2-3. Covers from Antofagasta 1878 with the octagonal postmark

2-6. Acre War Military Covers

2-7. Stamp of the Independent State of Acre

3-3. Plebiscite of Tacna-Arica covers

3-7. Leticia cover with the postmark "League of Nations"

4-1. Chaco War, Bolivian "Timbre Patriótico" stamps

4-3. Chaco War, Bolivian military mail

4-5. Chaco War, Bolivian censor labels

4-7. Chaco War, Bolivian censor handstamps

5-1. Chaco War, Bolivian mail to prisoners of war

5-2. Chaco War, Bolivian mail from prisoners of war

5-7. Italian cover with the pink Gronchi stamp