



## Indigenous Writings from the Convent: Negotiating Ethnic Autonomy in Colonial Mexico (Paperback)

By Monica Diaz

University of Arizona Press, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. Sometime in the 1740s, Sor Maria Magdalena, an indigenous noblewoman living in one of only three convents in New Spain that allowed Indians to profess as nuns, sent a letter to Father Juan de Altamirano to ask for his help in getting church prelates to exclude Creole and Spanish women from convents intended for indigenous nuns only. Drawing on this and other such letters--as well as biographies, sermons, and other texts--Monica Diaz argues that the survival of indigenous ethnic identity was effectively served by this class of noble indigenous nuns. While colonial sources that refer to indigenous women are not scant, documents in which women emerge as agents who actively participate in shaping their own identity are rare. Looking at this minority agency--or subaltern voice--in various religious discourses exposes some central themes. It shows that an indigenous identity recast in Catholic terms was able to be effectively recorded and that the religious participation of these women at a time when indigenous parishes were increasingly secularized lent cohesion to that identity. Indigenous Writings from the Convent examines ways in which indigenous women participated in...



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