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Capitalism Comes to the Village

Oil, Nation States, and Environmental Struggles in the Amazon

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Drawing from the struggles of indigenous people against an oil refinery in the Peruvian Amazon, Doris Buu-Sao deconstructs a fantasy version of anti-capitalism.

This innovative exposé explores the relationships between the oil industry, indigenous communities, and the Peruvian government. It invites us to leave behind our romantic ideas celebrating the heroism of indigenous resistance as well as the jaded outlook of those who would deplore a people's ability to steer their own fate. For those marching for the Quechua Federation one day might be working for an oil company the next. This work reveals the variety and complexity of interactions between indigenous villages and the petroleum industry, shedding light on how political and economic order are produced but also contested in daily life.
