Question for Miesch Andean Entrepreneurs: Otavalo Merchants and Musicians in the Global Arena

This book deals with the production of new social and economic relations amongst Otavalo and the rest of the world. One of the central themes is that of transnationalism and its affect on the people of Otavalo. A second theme is that Otavalo are not the typical peasant in South America, especially the Andes. The Otavalo are active in both Ecuadorian economics and politics, while most peasants in the Andes are marginalized members of their nations.

The main topic of this paper is a discussion of the social, historical, political and economic factors that allowed for the unique place that the Otavalo hold in Ecuadorian society. You will need to include descriptions of the main economic activities practiced by the Otavalo, the political situation that they find themselves in, both locally and internationally, and what social obstacles have they overcome to be successful international merchants, traders, and musicians? (Approximately 4 pages, including the introduction)

To individualize your paper you can focus on one of two major concepts, transnationalism or ethnicity. Transnationalism refers to the flow of people between nations and the economic relations that develop around those flows. A discussion of ethnicity should focus on the national and international affects of being an Otavalo. Specifically, how has their ethnicity helped them achieve their economic and/ or political goals? These concepts are interrelated in the book, but you can choose to focus on just one. (Approximately 2 pages, including your conclusions)