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Understanding Religious Sacrifice - Jeffrey Carter - 2003-03-31

This volume provides a thorough introduction to the major classic and modern writings dealing with religious sacrifice. Collected here are twenty five influential selections, each with a brief introduction addressing the overall framework and assumptions of its author. As they present different theories and examples of sacrifice, these selections also discuss important concepts in religious studies such as the origin of religion, totemism, magic, symbolism, violence, structuralism and ritual performance. Students of comparative religion, ritual studies, the history of religions, the anthropology of religion and theories of religion will particularly value the historical organization and thematic analyses presented in this collection.

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Human Sacrifice and the Supernatural in African History - Mboweni, Lawrence E.Y. - 2013-11-03

Since time immemorial, human beings have sought answers to the vexing questions of their origins, sickness, death and after death, the meaning of natural phenomena such as earthquakes, eclipses of the sun and moon, and other such mysterious events. They invented God and gods and the occult sciences (witch craft, divination and soothsaying) in order to seek the protection of supernatural powers while individuals used them to gain power to dominate others and to accumulate wealth. Human sacrifice was one way in which they sought to expiate the gods for what they believed were their punishments for transgressions. One example, the Ghana Asante Kingdom's very origins are associated with human sacrifice. On the eve of war against Deniyaa, individuals volunteered themselves to be sacrificed in order to guarantee victory. Later, human sacrifice in Asante was mainly politically motivated as kings and religious leaders offered human sacrifice in reverence of their ancestors and to ask their help in securing victory. It is one of several examples included in this study of human sacrifice and ritual killing on the African continent. Case studies include practices in Sierra Leone, Tanzania (Mainland), Zambir, Uganda and Swaziland. Advertisements relating to the occult was a common feature of Drum magazine, the popular South African magazine in several examples included in this study of human sacrifice and ritual killing on the African continent. Case studies include practices in Sierra Leone, Tanzania (Mainland), Zambir, Uganda and Swaziland. Advertisements relating to the occult was a common feature of Drum magazine, the popular South African magazine in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa in late years of colonial and early years of postcolonial periods, indicating a wide belief in these practices among the people in those countries. Each case examined is introduced by an expose of folklore that puts in perspective the supernatural and how folklore continues to perpetuate itself. Through careful study of these select cases, this book highlights general features of human sacrifice which recur with striking uniformity in all parts of sub Saharan Africa, and why they persist until today. He draws upon extensive written sources of how to practice these practices in other cultures including those in Western societies.

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Explores sacrificial practices across a range of contexts from prehistory to the present.

The term “sacrifice” belies what is a complex and varied transhistorical and transcultural phenomenon. Bringing together scholars from such diverse fields as anthropology, archaeology, epigraphy, literature, and theology, Diversity of Sacrifice explores sacrificial practices across a range of contexts from prehistory to the present. Incorporating theory, material culture, and textual evidence, the volume seeks to consider new and divergent data related to contexts of sacrifice that can help broaden our field of vision while raising new questions. The essays contributed here move beyond reductionist and simple explanations to explore complex areas of social interaction. Sacrifice plays a key role in the overlapping sacred and secular spheres for a number of societies in the past and present. How religious beliefs and practices are expressed through sacrifice varies, but any attempt to understand the community level is of fundamental importance to understanding the past and present. In addition to adding scholarly research, Diversity of Sacrifice enables students to explore this rich theme across Europe and the Mediterranean with clear discussions of theory and data.

Sacred Sacrifice - Rick F. Talbott - 2005-11-01

Sacrifices have been made in the name of many different spiritual and ideological ideas and the experience of sacred presence during the ritual act created similar ritual paradigms in two non-contiguous cultures. Vedic fire sacrifice, the Home sacrifice in ancient India and the Christ sacrifice, the Eucharist as examples. This book takes to tasks theories on sacrifice and ritual that emphasize the psycho-social and transcendental interpretation to the exclusion of the religious. The relationship between myth and ritual, and conscious and unconscious human behavior emerges from this analysis of universal religious structures.

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The Question of Sacrifice - Dennis King Keenan - 2005-06-14

In this concentrated and detailed look at questions surrounding the act of sacrifice, Dennis King Keenan discusses both the role and the meaning of sacrifice in our lives. Building on recent philosophical discussions on the gift and transcendence, Keenan covers new ground with this exploration of the religious, psychologival, and ethical implications of sacrificial action. According to Keenan, true sacrifice is not simply a self-giving act itself, but what this necessary, yet impossible condition means for living an ethical life? Along the way to an answer, Keenan considers the views of Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Bataille, Lacan, Levinas, Blanchot, Ingmar, Dennis, Knies, Nancy, and Zizek. This thoughtful and provocative work affords a sophisticated philosophical treatment of the question of sacrifice.

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Animal Sacrifice and the Origins of Islam - Bronwell Wheeler - 2012-02-30

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Slavery and African Life - Patrick Manning - 1990-08-28

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Sacrifice, Violence, and Ideology Among the Moche - Steve Bourget - 2016-05-03

In a special preface dedicated to ritual sacrifice at Huaca de la Luna on the north coast of Peru, about seventy-five men were killed and dismembered, their remains and body parts carelessly rearranged and left on the ground with numerous offerings. The discovery of this large sacrificial site—one of the most important sites of its type in the Americas—is the central focus of this volume. For centuries, many have found the Moche’s use of ritual violence and human sacrifice at their centers to be connected with their concepts of social complexity. He begins by providing a fully documented account of the archaeological contexts, demonstrating how closely intertwined these contexts are to the rest of Moche material culture, including its iconography, the regalia of its elite, and its monumental architecture. Bourget then probes the possible meanings of ritual violence and human sacrifice and their intimate connections with concepts of divinity, ancestry, and foreignness. He builds a convincing case that the iconography of ritual violence and the practice of human sacrifice at all the principal Moche ceremonial centers were the main devices used in the establishment and development of the Moche state.

Sacrifice, Violence, and Ideology Among the Moche - Steve Bourget - 2016-05-03

This volume brings together studies on Greek animal sacrifice by foremost experts in Greek language, literature and material culture. Readers will benefit from the synthesis of new evidence and approaches with a re-evaluation of twentieth-century theories. The chapters range across the whole of antiquity and go beyond the Greek world to consider possible influences in Hittite Anatolia and Egypt, while an introduction to the burgeoning science of osteo-archaeology is provided. This volume is an important contribution to the study of animal sacrifice and the study of the ancient Mediterranean, and will be an essential resource for scholars in the fields of archaeology, religion and the history of culture.

Thicker Than Water - Melinda Meyer - 2016-04-04

Blood is more than a fluid solution of cells, platelets and plasma. It is a symbol for the most basic of human concerns-life, death and family find expression in rituals surrounding everything from menstruation to human sacrifice. Comprehensive in its scope and provocative in its argument, this book examines beliefs and rituals concerning blood in a range of regional and religious contexts throughout human history. Meyer reveals the origins of a wide range of blood rituals, from the earliest known human usage to modern times. Through a comprehensive examination of religious beliefs and practices concerning blood, she explores the influence of religious and secular ideologies on the ideological and practical significance of blood in various cultural contexts. This book is an expression of appreciation of John Rogerson by former and current colleagues, former students, and other biblical scholars.

The Bible in Human Society - Mark Daniel Carroll R. - 1995-10-01

The Bible in Human Society is an interpretation of the Bible that tries to bridge the gap between the Bible and the modern world. In this book, Eller examines nonviolent and low-conflict societies and considers various methods of managing conflict. Taking a scrupulously objective approach, Eller neither accuses nor exonerates religion in regard to violence. Rather, he presents the evidence revealing which kinds of religious ideas and practices contribute to certain types of conflict. This book is an important contribution to the study of the Bible in human society.

Crucial Themes, Virtuous Violence - Jack David Eller - 2016-04-04

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Wealth of case material, demonstrating the many manifestations of religious violence—just war and terrorism, which are the focus of much of the literature, here is explored from a local point of view—whereupon it is observed that religious motives are often co-opted into or used to justify material violence. 

Theorists divide the development of religious violence into three stages: (1) the historical development of violence through the ages; (2) the present-day manifestations of religious violence; and (3) the future implications of religious violence. Each stage is examined in detail, with special emphasis on the role of religion in each. 

Engaging Religions and Worldviews in Africa - Yusufu Turski - 2020-04-30

Engaging Religions and Worldviews in Africa is a world in which globalization, we live amid a clash of cultures, religions, and worldviews—each forcing the human heart and mind. In this in-depth study, Professor Turki explores the complex and often-conflicting aspects of the interplay between Christianity and Islam in contemporary Africa. He provides a conceptual framework and practical guide for engaging African cultures and religions with compassion, understanding, and a firm foundation rooted in scriptural truth. 

This book is an excellent resource for students of religion and theology, as well as those interested in Africa's traditional heritage or drawn to the important work of cross-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.

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Questions of Anthropology - Rita Autri - 2020-06-08
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Time, Space and the Unknown - Paul Spencer - 2014-02-24
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Heroinism and the Supernatural in the African Epic - Mariman Koenst - 2010-09-13
This book uniquely explores the impact of indigenous ideology and thought on everyday life in Northeast Africa. Furthermore, in highlighting the diversity in pre-Christian, pre-Islamic regional beliefs and practices that extend beyond the simplistic political arguments of the current dominant narratives, the study shows that for some of the inhabitants...ethnographic research, the concepts, landscapes, materials and rituals believed to be associated with the indigenous and shared culture of the Sky-God belief system are...the interpretation of the shared regional heritage and the indigenous archaeology of the region. It will be invaluable to archaeologists, anthropologists, historians and policymakers interested in Africa and beyond.

Divine Fertility - Sala Mire - 2020-02-05
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Christianity and African Traditional Religion and Worldview - Professor Yusuf Turki - 2020-02-15
There are many books that have addressed the subject of this book. "How should Christianity approach the study of the African traditional religions". Christian scholars with different Christian traditions and backgrounds have propounded many methods. This book is the latest addition to this on-going debate. The book develops a method of approaching the African traditional religions from an integrative Biblical perspective. It stresses the primary role of the Bible and Biblical revelation as legitimate basis of defining African traditional religions, cultures and worldview. The book argues very strongly that African religion, cultures and worldviews have to be subjected to Biblical authority, definition and teachings. Christianity as a religious system with its set of beliefs, practices and religious life does not meet an empty African traditional mind, but one, which is already preoccupied with the African traditional religious thought. It is from this perspective, the book makes a strong case for the redefinition of traditional religious thought and its religious beliefs and practices. Religious concepts, perceptions, meanings, realities, behaviour and practices that are derived from the African traditional religious system are presented and defined in the light of the Bible and Christian theology.

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