

Embodying Colonial Memories Spirit Possession Power And The Hauka In West Africa

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Cultures of Memory Drunk in the Spirit Collective Memory and Collective Identity *Paul Stoller Heike Behrend Stephen Ellis Pilar Riano-Alcala Paul Stoller Rosalind Shaw Katharine Hodgkin Charles F. Keyes Susan M. Kenyon Paul Stoller Anna Della Subin Kirsten W. Endres Meera Venkatachalam Emma Cohen Michelle A. Gonzalez Selma Leydesdorff Jacob J. Climo B. Trezise Merrill G. Greene Johannes Unsok Ro*

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in africa as well as in europe many spirits and their mediums are part of local as well as global cultures christian spirits named hitler mussolini or king bruce bruce lee flourish in a pantheon of new holy spirits in uganda waging war against the government spirits of airplanes engines guitars and angels are found in central africa and thunder snakes and rain as well as playboys and prostitutes inhabit the spirit world in west africa spirit possession cults have continued to proliferate even in the secular west and continue to be a subject of intense interest despite the continuous expansion of the field some problems are only now beginning to be explored the experts in this volume focus on questions of power the history and inner dynamics of cults the role of gender and images of the other based on research conducted during the last fifteen years in africa the contributors document changes taking place across the continent as possession beliefs and practices respond to new circumstances and address the shifting local implications of an increasingly global socio economy gender ethnicity and class are examined as intersecting forces and features of spirit phenomena the case studies presented are richly contextualized history social organization and upheaval alternative religious options all are considered relevant to an understanding of possession forms contributors leslie sharp heike behrend adeline masquelier mathias krings jean paul colleyn alexandra o de sousa susan kenyon tobias wendl ute luig and linda giles co published with james currey publishers u k the wisconsin

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worlds of power shows how religious and supernatural ideas dominate african politics and culture and how they shape the ways that africans both rich and poor view the world

dweller of memory is an ethnographic study of how urban youth in colombia came to be at the intersection of multiple forms of political drug related and territorial violence in a country undergoing forty years of internal armed conflict it examines the ways in which youth in the city of medellin reconfigure their lives and cultural worlds in the face of widespread violence this violence has transgressed familiar boundaries and destroyed basic social supports and networks of trust this volume attempts to map and understand its patterns and flows the author explores how medellin s youth locate themselves and make sense of violence through contradictory and shifting memory practices the violence has not completely taken over their cultural worlds or their subjectivities practices of remembering and forgetting are key methods by which these youth rework their identities and make sense of the impact of violence on their lives while the experience of violence is rooted in urban space and urban youth the memory dweller uses a sense of place oral histories of death and narratives of fear as survival strategies for inhabiting violent neighborhoods the book also examines fissures in memory the contradictory constructions of young people s subjective selves and practices of gendered violence and terror all have and continue to pose risks to the historical memory and cultural survival of the residents of medellin dweller of memory offers an alternative ethnographic approach to the study of memory and violence one that calls into question whether the role of the ethnographer of violence is to be a mere witness of terror or to oppose it by writing against it it will be of interest to sociologists anthropologists and

students of ethnography

a study of the west african hauka spirits that grotesquely mimic and mock europeans of the colonial epoch the author considers spirit possession as a set of embodied practices with serious social and cultural consequences embodying colonial memories is the first in depth study of the west african hauka spirits in the body of human mediums which mimic and mock europeans of the colonial epoch paul stoller who was initiated into a spirit possession troupe recounts an insider s tale of the hauka with respect and brotherly deference he combines narrative description historical analysis and reflections on the importance of embodiment and mimesis to social theory with particular reference to the songhay peoples of the republic of niger

how is the slave trade remembered in west africa in a work that challenges recurring claims that africans felt and still feel no sense of moral responsibility concerning the sale of slaves rosalind shaw traces memories of the slave trade in temne speaking communities in sierra leone while the slave trading past is rarely remembered in explicit verbal accounts it is often made vividly present in such forms as rogue spirits ritual specialists visions and the imagery of divination techniques drawing on extensive fieldwork and archival research shaw argues that memories of the slave trade have shaped and been reshaped by experiences of colonialism postcolonialism and the country s ten year rebel war thus money and commodities for instance are often linked to an invisible city of witches whose affluence was built on the theft of human lives these ritual and visionary memories make hitherto invisible realities manifest forming a prism through which past and present mutually configure each other

a focus on memory has come to prominence across a wide range of disciplines history literature philosophy anthropology and cultural

studies have placed memory at the heart of their interrogations of subjectivity narrative time and imagination at the same time memory has emerged as a central theme and preoccupation in popular literature film and television and the emergence of memory as an academic theme cannot be separated from its prominence in the wider culture this volume represents explores and interrogates the current developments engaging directly with the place of memory in culture and with memory's meanings and history

this book explores social memory in the context of cultural crises of modernity in thailand and laos it explicates the ways in which social memory constructed by the people enters modernity and how this in turn causes fundamental ruptures with their past as well as the various ways cultural crises are experienced in their lives the essays in this book consider how in these crises the people constitute their cultural social or individual identities particularly focusing on the theoretical issues of identifications and their relevance to distinct historical processes in thailand and laos both countries particularly in the two decades since the 1970s have been undergoing radical social and economic changes whilst thailand has travelled down the road to industrialization neighbouring laos experienced a communist revolution in 1975 and only since the late 1980s has attempted to follow a reformist path to development increasingly influenced by globalised economic and social institutions both countries have come to face crises that have made people insecure in the present and anxious about the future

this historical ethnography from central sudan explores the century old intertwining of zar spirit possession with past lives of ex slaves and shows that despite very different social and cultural contexts zar has continued to be shaped by the experience of slavery

among the songhay of mali and niger who consider the stomach the seat of personality learning is understood not in terms of mental

activity but in bodily terms songhay bards study history by eating the words of the ancestors and sorcerers learn their art by ingesting particular substances by testing their flesh with knives by mastering pain and illness in sensuous scholarship paul stoller challenges contemporary social theorists and cultural critics who using the notion of embodiment to critique eurocentric and phallogocentric predispositions in scholarly thought consider the body primarily as a text that can be read and analyzed stoller argues that this attitude is in itself eurocentric and is particularly inappropriate for anthropologists who often work in societies in which the notion of text and textual interpretation is foreign throughout sensuous scholarship stoller argues for the importance of understanding the sensuous epistemologies of many non western societies so that we can better understand the societies themselves and what their epistemologies have to teach us about human experience in general

named a best book of the year by esquire the irish times and the times literary supplement shortlisted for the pen hessell tiltman prize a provocative history of men who were worshipped as gods that illuminates the connection between power and religion and the role of divinity in a secular age ever since 1492 when christopher columbus made landfall in the new world and was hailed as a heavenly being the accidental god has haunted the modern age from haile selassie acclaimed as the living god in jamaica to britain s prince philip who became the unlikely center of a new religion on a south pacific island men made divine always men have appeared on every continent and because these deifications always emerge at moments of turbulence civil wars imperial conquest revolutions they have much to teach us in a revelatory history spanning five centuries a cast of surprising deities helps to shed light on the thorny questions of how our modern concept of religion was invented why religion and politics are perpetually entangled in our supposedly secular age and how the power to call someone divine has been used and abused by both oppressors and the oppressed from nationalist uprisings in india to

nigerien spirit possession cults anna della subin explores how deification has been a means of defiance for colonized peoples conversely we see how columbus cortés and other white explorers amplified stories of their godhood to justify their dominion over native peoples setting into motion the currents of racism and exclusion that have plagued the new world ever since they touched its shores at once deeply learned and delightfully antic accidental gods offers an unusual keyhole through which to observe the creation of our modern world it is that rare thing a lyrical entertaining work of ideas one that marks the debut of a remarkable literary career

in many parts of the contemporary world spirit beliefs and practices have taken on a pivotal role in addressing the discontinuities and uncertainties of modern life the myriad ways in which devotees engage the spirit world show the tremendous creative potential of these practices and their innate adaptability to changing times and circumstances through in depth anthropological case studies from indonesia malaysia thailand myanmar laos and vietnam the contributors to this book investigate the role and impact of different social political and economic dynamics in the reconfiguration of local spirit worlds in modern southeast asia their findings contribute to the re enchantment debate by revealing that the spirited modernities that have emerged in the process not only embody a distinct feature of the contemporary moment but also invite a critical rethinking of the concept of modernity itself

this book aims to reconstruct the religious history of the anlo ewe peoples from the 1850s

illustrated mainly with hypothetical or anecdotal examples this book considers in detail how the psychological systems undergirding spirit concepts are activated in real world settings and specifically how those concepts can give rise to trance and spirit possession phenomena

the oxford handbook of caribbean religions offers a comprehensive overview of caribbean religions the caribbean is a microcosm of the world s religions but the small geographic space resulted in the encounter of global religions and indigenous religious practices the racial ethnic and cultural diversity of this region makes brief introductions to caribbean religions incapable of truly addressing its complex and diverse religious landscape the handbook also elaborates on the diversity of the religious traditions and the national particularity of the region while also considering multiple geographic settings it mentions how often caribbean religion is studied through the perspective of a discrete religious tradition or geographic setting

in recent years memory has attracted increasing attention from analyses of electronic communication and the internet to discussions of heritage culture to debates about victimhood and sexual abuse memory is currently generating much cultural interest this interdisciplinary collection takes a journey through memory in order to contextualize this current memory boom memory cultures focuses on memories outside in the many fields within which understandings of memory have been produced it focuses less on memory as an object whose inner workings are to be studied and more on memory as a concept it traces the genealogies of our contemporary western understandings of memory through studies of the early modern arts of memory it also discusses nineteenth century evolutionary museums and the modernist explorations of artists and writers here it explores the differences between western and non western concepts of the lived past and compares understandings of memory in history psychoanalysis and anthropology the volume is divided into five parts believing the body propping the subject what memory forgets models of the mind what history forgets memory and time and memory beyond the modern individual essays by many of the foremost international scholars in memory studies trace memory s intimate association with identity and recognition with cities with lived time with the science of the mind with fantasy and

with the media memory cultures will be of essential interest to those working in the fields of cultural studies history and also anthropology

in social memory and history a group of anthropologists sociologists social linguists gerontologists and historians explore the ways in which memory reconstructs the past and constructs the present a substantial introduction by the editors outlines the key issues in the understanding of social memory its nature and process its personal and political implications the crisis in memory and the relationship between social and individual memory ten cross cultural case studies groups ranging from kiowa songsters burgundian farmers elderly philadelphia whites chilean political activists american immigrants to israel and irish working class women then explore how social memory transmits culture or contests it at the individual community and national levels in both tangible and symbolic spheres

performing feeling in cultures of memory brings memory studies into conversation with a focus on feelings as cultural actors it charts a series of memory sites that range from canonical museums and memorials to practices enabled by the virtual terrain of second life popular trauma tv programs and radical theatre practice

sloshed hammered doing carpet time sipping godka videos showing people falling down shaking and spontaneously laughing all in church if one has not grown up in the charismatic or pentecostal tradition the concept of being drunk in the spirit likely seems baffling yet in recent decades the idea of spiritual intoxication has gained traction what should we think about such odd looking manifestations does the bible speak of anything like this how should we discern such things in this book readers will find a sustained analysis of passages from the bible dealing with these very topics readers may be shocked at how trances ecstatic episodes and altered states of

consciousness are indeed found within the pages of sacred scripture some of them hidden in one's own cherished stories

collective memory has attracted the attention and discussion of scholars internationally across academic disciplines over the past 40-50 years in particular it and collective identity have become important issues within Hebrew Bible Old Testament studies the role collective memory plays in shaping collective identity links the two organically research to date on memory within biblical studies broadly falls under four approaches 1 lexical studies 2 discussions of biblical historiography in which memory is considered a contributing element 3 topical explorations for which memory is an organizing concept and 4 memory and transmission studies the sixteen contributors to this volume provide detailed investigations of the contours of collective memory and collective identity that have crystallized in Martin Noth's Deuteronomistic History Deut 2 Kings together they yield diverse profiles of collective memory and collective identity that draw comparatively on biblical ancient near eastern and classical Greek material employing one or more of the four common approaches this is the first volume devoted to applying memory studies to the Deuteronomistic History

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