

The Anthropology Of Religion Magic And Witchcraft 3rd Edition

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this concise and accessible textbook introduces students to the anthropological study of religion it examines religious expression from a cross cultural perspective and exposes students to the complexities of religion in small scale and complex societies the chapters incorporate key theoretical concepts and a wide range of ethnographic material the fifth edition of the anthropology of religion magic and witchcraft offers a revised introduction covering the foundations of the anthropology of religion anthropological methods and a push toward decolonizing the anthropology of religion expanded coverage of symbols healing wizardry and the intersections of religion with other social institutions new case study material with examples drawn from around the globe especially from indigenous communities marginalia in each chapter introducing provocative small case examples related to the chapter many of these can be used as prompts for further research small in class case studies or examples for hands on learning a new chapter on religion and healing especially useful for anthropology programs without representation of four fields as it provides a wider and more interdisciplinary application of the discipline a consistent review of foundations from chapter to chapter linking material and enabling students to connect what they are learning throughout the course and further resources via a comprehensive companion website including interactive activities critical case studies updated study questions bibliographical suggestions including video and color images this is an essential guide for students encountering the anthropology of religion for the first time and also for those with an ongoing interest in this fascinating field

this book emphasizes the major concepts of both anthropology and the anthropology of religion and examines religious expression from a cross cultural perspective while incorporating key theoretical concepts it is aimed at students encountering anthropology for the first time

this comparative reader takes an anthropological approach to the study of religious beliefs and practices both strange and familiar the engaging articles on all key issues related to the anthropology of religion grab the attention of students while giving them an excellent foundation in contemporary ideas and approaches in the field the multiple authors included in each chapter represent a range of interests geographic foci and ways of looking at each subject divided into 10 chapters this book begins with a broad view of anthropological ways of looking at religion and moves on to some of the core topics within the subject such as myth ritual and the various types of religious specialties

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this essential text on the psychology of religion studies the fundamental origins of human spirituality in magic and religion psychologist george b vetter approaches magico religious behavior as a universal human phenomenon he examines the various wide ranging theories regarding the

psychology of religion before calling for a more scientifically rigorous approach to the subject putting forth his own provocative and enlightening thesis. Vetter argues that magic and religion are predictable behavior patterns developed in situations that are uncontrollable yet of momentous importance to the individual or collective. First published in 1958, *Magic and Religion* was a significant contribution to the psychology and sociology of religion, hailed by some as an essential text on the subject. It was denounced by others as heresy in part because of its frank criticism of clerical celibacy and its early advocacy for abortion rights.

Randall Styers seeks to account for the vitality of scholarly discourse purporting to define and explain magic despite its failure to do just that. He argues that it can best be explained in light of the European and Euro-American drive to establish and secure their own identity as normative.

In the history of Western culture, theology and science a strict dichotomy exists between religion and magic. Religion as the intellectually and morally superior one, magic as the primitive, superstitious, demonic other. The present work aims to break with this tradition and traces the origin of this dichotomy as well as its many purposes: whose powers does it serve, which interests and ideological stakes does it conceal? Moreover, the author proposes a new epistemological framework for the study of magisms as well as their rehumanisation and argues for a rehabilitation of their studies.

Keith Thomas's classic study of all forms of popular belief has been influential for so long now that it is difficult to remember how revolutionary it seemed when it first appeared. By publishing *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, Thomas became the first serious scholar to attempt to synthesize the full range of popular thought about the occult and the supernatural, studying its influence across Europe over several centuries. At root, his book can be seen as a superb exercise in problem solving: one that actually established magic as a historical problem worthy of investigation. Thomas asked productive questions, not least challenging the prevailing assumption that folk belief was unworthy of serious scholarly attention, and his work usefully reframed the existing debate in much broader terms, allowing for more extensive exploration of correlations not only between different sorts of popular belief but also between popular belief and state religion. It was this that allowed Thomas to reach his famous conclusion that the advent of Protestantism, which drove out much of the superstition that characterised the Catholicism of the period, created a vacuum filled by other forms of belief. For example, Catholic priests had once blessed their crops, but Protestants refused to do so, that left farmers looking for other ways of ensuring a good harvest. It was this, Thomas argues, that explains the survival of what we now think of as magic at a time such beliefs might have been expected to decline, at least until science arose to offer alternative paradigms.

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reproduction of the original magic and religion by andrew lang

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