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# Native American Religion

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Book of Mormon Inspired the \"Termination\" of Native American Tribes Native American Religion in Prison: Great Spirit Within the Hole  
| Full Documentary Animism - Native American Religion The Book of Mormon's history of Native Americans  
Reincarnation Beliefs of North American Indians  
A Performance Approach to Religion  
Native American Religion and American Law  
Native American Religious Identity  
Native American Religions  
Missionary Conquest  
The Encyclopedia of Native American Religions  
Native Religions of North America  
The Teachings of Don Juan  
The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom  
Celibacy and Religious Traditions

Defend the Sacred  
Gale Researcher Guide for: Native American Religion  
A Seat at the Table  
Unforgotten Gods  
Religion and the Struggle for the American West  
Huston Smith In Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom  
Offering Smoke  
We Have a Religion  
Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America  
An Introduction

*Native American Religion*

*OMB No. 5889622177314 edited by*

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## **ROWAN ADRIEL**

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### **Reincarnation Beliefs of North American Indians** U of Nebraska Press

Here is an in-depth look at spiritual experiences about which very little has been written. Belief in reincarnation exists not only in India but in most small tribal societies throughout the world, including many Indian groups in North America. The reader is offered a rich tapestry of stories from a number of North American tribes about death, dying, and returning to this life. Included are stories from the Inuit of the polar regions; the Northwest Coast people, such as the Kwakiutl, the Gitksan, the Tlingit, and the Suquamish; the Hopi and the Cochiti of the Southwest; the Winnebago of the Great Lakes region; the Cherokee of the Southeast; and the Sioux people of the Plains area. Readers will learn about a Winnebago shaman's initiation, the Cherokee's Orpheus myth, the Hopi story of A Journey to the

Skeleton House, the Inuit man who lived the lives of all animals, the Ghost Dance, and other extraordinary accounts. The ethnological record indicates reincarnation beliefs are found among the indigenous peoples on all continents of this earth as well as in most of the world's major religions. This book makes a valuable contribution towards having a deeper understanding of North American Indian spiritual beliefs.

### A Performance Approach to Religion Chelsea House

In contemporary Indian Country, many of the people who identify as "American Indian" fall into the "urban Indian" category: away from traditional lands and communities, in cities and towns wherein the opportunities to live one's identity as Native can be restricted, and even more so for American Indian religious practice and activity. Tradition, Performance, and Religion in Native America: Ancestral Ways, Modern Selves explores a possible theoretical model for discussing the religious nature of urbanized Indians. It uses aspects of contemporary pantribal practices such as the inter-tribal pow wow, substance abuse

recovery programs such as the Wellbriety Movement, and political involvement to provide insights into contemporary Native religious identity. Simply put, this book addresses the question what does it mean to be an Indigenous American in the 21st century, and how does one express that indigeneity religiously? It proposes that practices and ideologies appropriate to the pan-Indian context provide much of the foundation for maintaining a sense of aboriginal spiritual identity within modernity. Individuals and families who identify themselves as Native American can participate in activities associated with a broad network of other Native people, in effect performing their Indian identity and enacting the values that are connected to that identity.

*Native American Religion and American Law* Bloomsbury Publishing USA

"A Seat At The Table is a valuable and insightful book about a too long overlooked topic - the right of Native American people to have their sacred sites and practices honored and protected. Let's hope it gets read far and wide, enough to bring about a real shift in policy and consciousness."—Bonnie Raitt "Phil Cousineau has created a fine companion book to accompany the important film he and Gary Rhine have made in defense of the religious traditions of Native Americans. [Native Americans] are recognized the world over as keepers of a vital piece of the Creator's original orders, and yet they are regarded as little more than squatters at home. This book features impressive interviews, beautiful illustrations, and gives a voice to the voiceless."—Peter Coyote

## NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

Checkmark Books

Native Americans and Canadians are largely romanticised or sidelined figures in modern society. Their spirituality has been appropriated on a relatively large scale by Europeans and non-Native Americans, with little concern for the diversity of Native American opinions. Suzanne Owen offers an insight into appropriation that will bring a new understanding and perspective to these debates. This important volume collects together these key debates from the last 25 years and sets them in context, analyses Native American objections to appropriations of their spirituality and examines 'New Age' practices based on Native American spirituality. The Appropriation of Native American Spirituality includes the findings of fieldwork among the Mi'Kmaq of Newfoundland on the sharing of ceremonies between Native Americans and First Nations, which highlights an aspect of the debate that has been under-researched in both anthropology and religious studies: that Native American discourses about the breaking of 'protocols', rules on the participation and performance of ceremonies, is at the heart of objections to the appropriation of Native American spirituality.

Native American Religions Cengage Learning

Surveys the history and basic beliefs of Native American religions.

Missionary Conquest Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers Distributed by the University of Nebraska Press for the University of Idaho Press In this brilliant exploration of the history, mythology, ritual and symbolism of the sacred pipe, author

Jordan Paper breaks new ground in assessing the importance of the pipe in Native American religion. Offering Smoke provides a dazzling introduction to an aspect of Native American culture heretofore never explored in such depth or with such careful regard for the religious and cultural sensitivities so vital for genuine understanding.

[The Encyclopedia of Native American Religions](#) Oxford University Press

Master's Thesis from the year 2008 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, grade: 1,0, University of Hildesheim (Institut für englische Sprache und Literatur), language: English, abstract: In my Master's Thesis I will refer to my Bachelor's Thesis, which was about 'Native American Women'. I analyzed how Native American women lived in their communities and especially how their role was and is in contrast to what Europeans and European Americans think it was. I found that the role of women in Native America was in many ways different from the role of European women at the same time. After I became engrossed in the topic of Native American culture and Native American women in particular I became curious about what Native Americans believed, what their philosophy was and how they organized their spiritual life. This is why I decided to research this and focus on Native American beliefs, ideology and philosophy of life in my Master's Thesis. In my thesis I will not concentrate on one or several special tribes. Instead I will try to give a comprehensive survey of Native American religion in general. While doing so, I will always look for and give adequate examples that illustrate what I want to convey. I will divide this thesis into three parts. The first part will be devoted to the history

of Native American religion. In my opinion it is not possible to look at another culture's religion without finding out the story of its religion first. I want to do research on what Native Americans believed through the course of time and believe today, if their belief system has changed and what consequences white contact brought. I want to find out how Native American religion as it used to be before white contact developed and survived. Furthermore, I want to discover if Natives today still have the same beliefs as their ancestors or if most of them converted to the Christian religion and the West."

**Native Religions of North America** Fortress Press

This volume offers a stimulating, multidisciplinary set of essays by noted Native and non-Native scholars that explore the problems and prospects of understanding and writing about Native American spirituality in the twenty-first century. Considerable attention is given to the appropriateness and value of different interpretive paradigms for Native religion, including both traditional religion and Native Christianity. The book also investigates the ethics of religious representation, issues of authenticity, the commodification of spirituality, and pedagogical practices. Of special interest is the role of dialogue in expressing and understanding Native American religious beliefs and practices. A final set of essays explores the power of and reactions to Native spirituality from a long-term, historical perspective.

**The Teachings of Don Juan** Waveland Press Inc

This fascinating probe into U.S. mission history spotlights four cases: Junipero Serra, the Franciscan whose mission to California natives has made him a candidate for sainthood; John Eliot, the

renowned Puritan missionary to Massachusetts Indians; Pierre-Jean De Smet, the Jesuit missionary to the Indians of the Midwest; and Henry Benjamin Whipple, who engineered the U.S. government's theft of the Black Hills from the Sioux.

The 1920s Pueblo Indian Dance Controversy and American Religious Freedom BRILL

In this ground-breaking work, some of the best contemporary Native scholars and writers examine the issue of Native religious identity today. Because the traditional Native American view recognizes no sharp distinction between sacred and profane spheres of existence, Native cultures and religious traditions are in many ways synonymous and coextensive. This intimate relationship between culture and religion makes the question of religious identity a vital inquiry. Essays range from the scholarly to the intensely personal, including Christian, traditional, and "post-Christian" perspectives. The range of topics includes a study of Nahua religion and the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe; the role of Native interpreters in spreading Christianity; a Native writer's observations of a modern Sun Dance ritual; and an Indian elder's poignant account of how it felt, after her marriage to a white Canadian, to receive an official card from the government declaring that she was "no longer an Indian" according to the laws of Canada.

### **CELIBACY AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS**

Princeton University Press

Charts the multiple histories of American nature religion and explores the moral and spiritual responses the encounter with nature has provoked throughout American history. Traces the

connections between movements and individuals. Includes figures from popular culture such as the Hutchinson Family Singers and Davy Crockett as well as Thomas Jefferson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and John Muir.

### **Defend the Sacred** Native Voices Books

During the nineteenth century, white Americans sought the cultural transformation and physical displacement of Native people. Though this process was certainly a clash of rival economic systems and racial ideologies, it was also a profound spiritual struggle. The fight over Indian Country sparked religious crises among both Natives and Americans. In *The Gods of Indian Country*, Jennifer Graber tells the story of the Kiowa Indians during Anglo-Americans' hundred-year effort to seize their homeland. Like Native people across the American West, Kiowas had known struggle and dislocation before. But the forces bearing down on them—soldiers, missionaries, and government officials—were unrelenting. With pressure mounting, Kiowas adapted their ritual practices in the hope that they could use sacred power to save their lands and community. Against the Kiowas stood Protestant and Catholic leaders, missionaries, and reformers who hoped to remake Indian Country. These activists saw themselves as the Indians' friends, teachers, and protectors. They also asserted the primacy of white Christian civilization and the need to transform the spiritual and material lives of Native people. When Kiowas and other Native people resisted their designs, these Christians supported policies that broke treaties and appropriated Indian lands. They argued that the gifts bestowed by Christianity and civilization outweighed the pains that accompanied the denial of freedoms, the destruction of

communities, and the theft of resources. In order to secure Indian Country and control indigenous populations, Christian activists sanctified the economic and racial hierarchies of their day. The Gods of Indian Country tells a complex, fascinating-and ultimately heartbreaking-tale of the struggle for the American West.

*Gale Researcher Guide for: Native American Religion* Gale, Cengage Learning

Describes traditional beliefs and worship practices, the consequences of contact with Europeans and other Americans, and the forms Native American religions take today.

### **A SEAT AT THE TABLE**

University of Chicago Press

Part of a series covering the history, practices and beliefs of religions this book provides an account of the natural religions of North America, from Blackfeet and Navajo religion to Shamanism. It also gives an insight into religious drama, dance, myth and music.

**Unforgotten Gods** Oxford University Press

Focusing on three diverse indigenous traditions, Native American Religious Traditions highlights the distinct oral traditions and ceremonial practices; the impact of colonialism on religious life; and the ways in which indigenous communities of North America have responded, and continue to respond, to colonialism and Euroamerican cultural hegemony.

*Religion and the Struggle for the American West* Princeton University Press

The Importance of Storytelling for the Survival of Native American Religion GRIN Verlag

**Huston Smith In Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom** Oxford University Press

Discusses the world view and beliefs of various Native American religions and their role in promoting survival of the devastation caused by the arrival of Europeans.

**Offering Smoke** University of Oklahoma Press

Native American Spirituality teaches us the value of living in harmony with the earth, of honouring each other and respecting the interdependence of all life. By looking back and rediscovering 'The Old Ways', we can look forward to applying these perennial truths to our modern dilemmas. This introductory guide explains what is a vision quest, how to reconnect with nature, how to purify with herbs, what is a sweat lodge, what is a medicine tool, and what is the Great Mystery.

### **WE HAVE A RELIGION**

Univ of California Press

Since its first publication in 1981, AMERICA: RELIGIONS AND RELIGION has become the standard introduction to the study of American religious traditions. Written by one of the foremost scholars in the field of American religions, this textbook has introduced thousands of students to the rich religious diversity that has always been a hallmark of the American religious experience. Beginning with Native American religious traditions and following the course of America's religious history up to the present day, this text gives students the benefit of the author's rigorous scholarship in clear language that has proven to be readily accessible for today's undergraduates. This long-awaited new edition explores a variety of recent events and

developments, including increasing religious pluralism and, especially, a combinative postpluralism in which different faiths in America subtly begin to borrow from one another. The new edition examines postethnic Judaism in the Jewish Renewal movement and other instances, the growing Womenpriest movement among American Catholics, and the development of Islam in America in the light of September 11, 2001. It surveys the emerging church movement among liberal evangelicals and others, and follows the growth of a new spirituality that is much

broader than the New Age movement. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

*Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America*  
Maryknoll, N.Y. : Orbis Books c2001.

This volume contains insightful essays on significant spiritual moments in eight different Native American cultures: Absaroke/Crow, Creek/Muskogee, Lakota, Mescalero Apache Navajo, Tlingit, Yup'ik, and Yurok.

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