The Peyote Cult

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for half a century readers on peyotism have devoured la barre s fascinating original study which began when the author at age twenty

four studied the rites of fifteen american indian tribes using lophophora williamsii the small spineless carrot shaped peyote cactus growing in the rio grande valley and southward continuing his research from the 1930s through the 1980s weston la barre reviews topics such as the timothy leary richard alpert experiments with peyote and other psychotropic substances the carlos castaneda phenomenon the progress of the native american church toward acceptance as a religious denomination the presumptions of the neo american church the legal ramifications of ritual drug use and the spread of peyotism from the southwest to other north american tribes this new edition of la barre's classic study includes 334 new entries in the latest of his highly valued bibliographical essays on works relating to peyote not just in anthropology but in a variety of fields including archeology economics botany chemistry and pharmacology the bibliography lists important contributions in popular media such as newspapers audiotapes and films as well as in scholarly journals

the peyote cult by paul radin offers one of the earliest and most detailed accounts of the peyote ceremony among native american communities

this book discusses the peyote religion a religion centered around the ritual consumption of the peyote cactus its ecclesiastical organization the north american church has stirred some attention among scholars most of them anthropologists the author describes what he calls all the nativistic religious movements which have emerged in the peyote tradition in north america over the past 200 years

describes the peyote plant the birth of peyotism in western oklahoma its spread from indian territory to mexico the high plains and the far west its role among such tribes as the comanche kiowa kiowa apache caddo wichita delaware and navajo indians its conflicts with the law and the history of the native american church

draws on diary entries and correspondence from student to tell the story of the early years of haskell institute a government boarding school designed to civilize and acculturate indians to anglo american ideals reveals how both resistance against and compliance with the dominant culture unified the students and erased traditional barriers between tribes

the supreme court's controversial decision in oregon v smith sharply departed from previous expansive readings of the first amendment

s religious freedom clause and ignited a firestorm of protest from legal scholars religious groups legislators and native americans a major event in native american history the case attracted widespread support for the indian cause from a diverse array of religious groups eager to protect their own religious freedom and led to an intense tug of war between the court and congress carolyn long provides the first book length analysis of smith and shows shy it continues to resonate so deeply in the american psyche back cover

provides an anthropological overview of the native american plains culture includes topics such as prehistory linguistics archeology ethnology economics the ghost dance sun dance and native american church

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