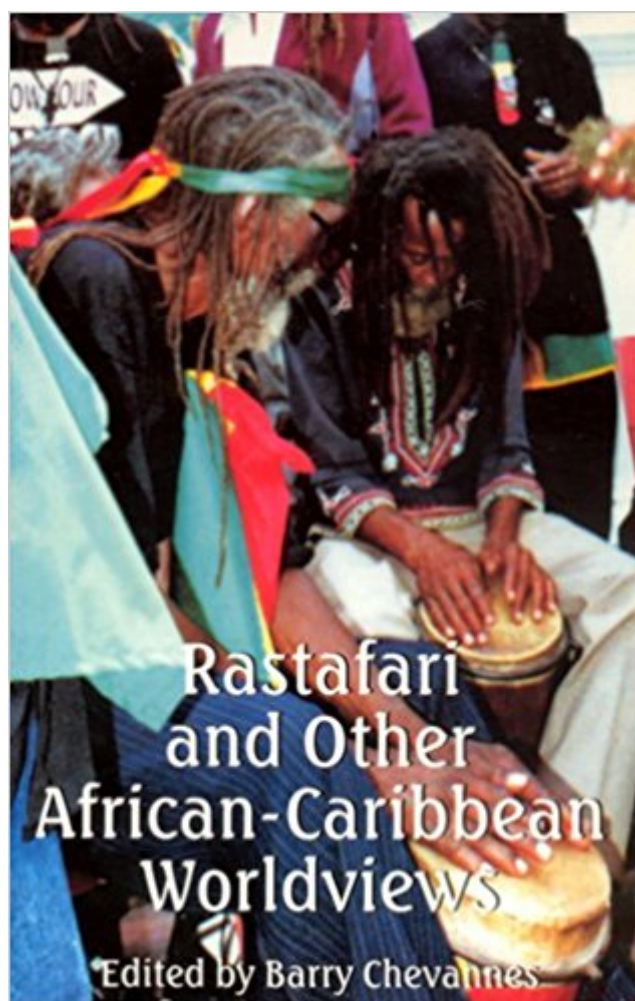


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Rastafari & Other African-Caribbean Worldviews



Synopsis

Rastafari has been seen as a political organization, a youth movement, and a millenarian cult. This lively collection of papers challenges these categories and offers a new approach to the study of Rastafari. Chevannes and his contributors suggest that we can better understand Rastafari -- and Caribbean culture, for that matter -- by seeing the movement as both a departure from and a continuance of Revivalism, an African-Caribbean folk religion. By linking Rastafari to Revival, we can enrich our understanding of an African-Caribbean worldview, and we can appreciate Rastafari not only as a political force but as a powerful expression of African-Caribbean culture and tradition. Barry Chevannes provides a concise overview of Rastafari and Revivalism and clearly lays out the volume's new approach. Leading scholars of Rastafari illustrate and develop the theme with chapters on Rastafari as resistance, the origin of the dreadlocks, Rastafari and language, women in African-Caribbean religions and more. With chapters that range from the specific to the general, this volume will be important to specialists of Caribbean religion and the African diaspora and to those with a burgeoning interest in Rastafari. -- Contributors challenge existing scholarship on Rastafari. -- Volume offers both a general overview for the introductory student and sophisticated analysis for the specialist. -- Chapters cover African-Caribbean religions in several countries and from both a contemporary and historical perspective.

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Customer Reviews

Chevannes, author of many articles and another book on Rastas, edits and contributes to this

volume. His thesis is that Rastafari should be seen simultaneously as a "continuance of and departure from" Revivalism, an Afro-Caribbean folk religion. The other scholars in this text agree with Chevannes, and they probe the relationships of transformation in these and other religious movements. Four topics stand out for treatment in this work---Rastafari language construction, the origin of Dreadlocks with the arrival of the Youth Black Faith, the psychoanalytic treatment of the meaning of Dreads, and the chapter on Women's discourse on Possession in Surinamese Creole. Chevannes excels here in the areas he is known for best, Rasta symbolism and history.

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