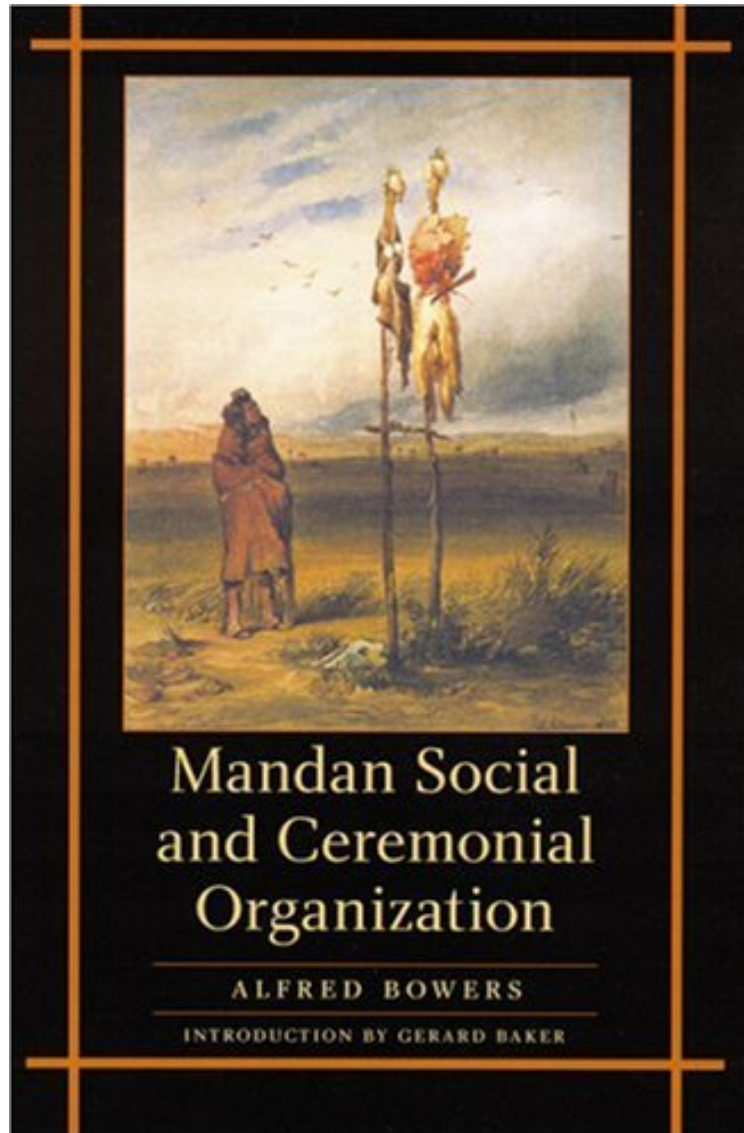


(Mobile pdf) Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization

# Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization

*Alfred W. Bowers*

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**Alfred W. Bowers : Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Alfred W. Bowers By Customer Writing was informative but long. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in native American studies! I bought this book for an elderly family member and she enjoyed it greatly! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic Ethnography of Matrilineal Society By Ernest Schusky The Mandan have all the economic conditions basic to matrilineal society--

intensive hoe agriculture, matrilineal residence and the resulting Crow type kinship system. Bowers connects all of these to show how matrilineal clans form the cement of social organization. In addition, the Mandan had (to some extent still have) a complex ceremonial organization that featured three types of marriage, the first two being the important ones. A woman's parents selected a groom for their daughter, invited him to a kind of engagement meeting party, sealed the meeting with a white bison robe and other gifts, followed by a bestowal of horses on the groom by the bride's brothers. The second marriage was a reversal with the groom's parents selecting a bride, inviting her and her family to a meeting, followed by exchange of gifts. Bowers has extensive descriptions of the ceremonies, but what was most important in his account was to show how clans are basic to all the institutions of society: economics, politics, religion and family. Recommended for anyone with an interest in Plains Indians or the field of social organization, to some degree religious ceremony. [ernestschusky.com](http://ernestschusky.com)

Generations before the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery wintered in the northern Plains, the Mandan Indians farmed along the banks of rivers. The traditional world of the Mandans comes vividly to life in this classic account by anthropologist Alfred W. Bowers. Based on years of research and conversations with Crows Heart and ten other Mandan men and women, Bowers offers an engaging and detailed reconstruction of their way of life in earlier times. Featured here are overviews of how their households function, the makeup of their clan and moiety systems and kinship network, and a valuable look at the entire Mandan life cycle, from birth and naming through adulthood, marriage, and death. *Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization* also includes descriptions and analyses of Mandan ceremonies, legends, and religious beliefs, including origin myths, the Okipa Ceremony, sacred bundles, Corn ceremonies, the Eagle-Trapping Ceremony, Catfish-Trapping Ceremony, and the Adoption Pipe Ceremony. Many of these practices and beliefs remain vital and relevant for Mandans today. A comprehensive look at the legacy and traditional roots of present-day Mandan culture, *Mandan Social and Ceremonial Organization* is a classic ethnography of an enduring North American Native community.

From the Inside Flap  
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