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# Maya Resurgence in Guatemala: Q'Eqchi' Experiences

*Richard Wilson*

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Across Guatemala, Mayan peoples are struggling to recover from decades of cataclysmic upheaval--religious conversions, civil war, displacement, military repression. Richard Wilson carried out long-term research with Qeqchi-speaking Mayas in the province of Alta Verapaz to ascertain how these events affected social organization and identity. He finds that their rituals of fertility and healing--abandoned in the 1970s during Catholic and Protestant evangelizations--have been reinvented by an ethnic revivalist movement led by Catholic lay activists, who seek to renovate the earth cult in order to create a new pan-Qeqchi ethnic identity.

About the AuthorRichard Wilson is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Sussex. He served as a consultant for the documentary series Before Columbus, which first ran on British television in 1992. He co-edited (with B. Gills and J. Rocamora) Low Intensity Democracy: Political Power in the New World Order, published by Pluto Press/ Westview Press, London 1993.