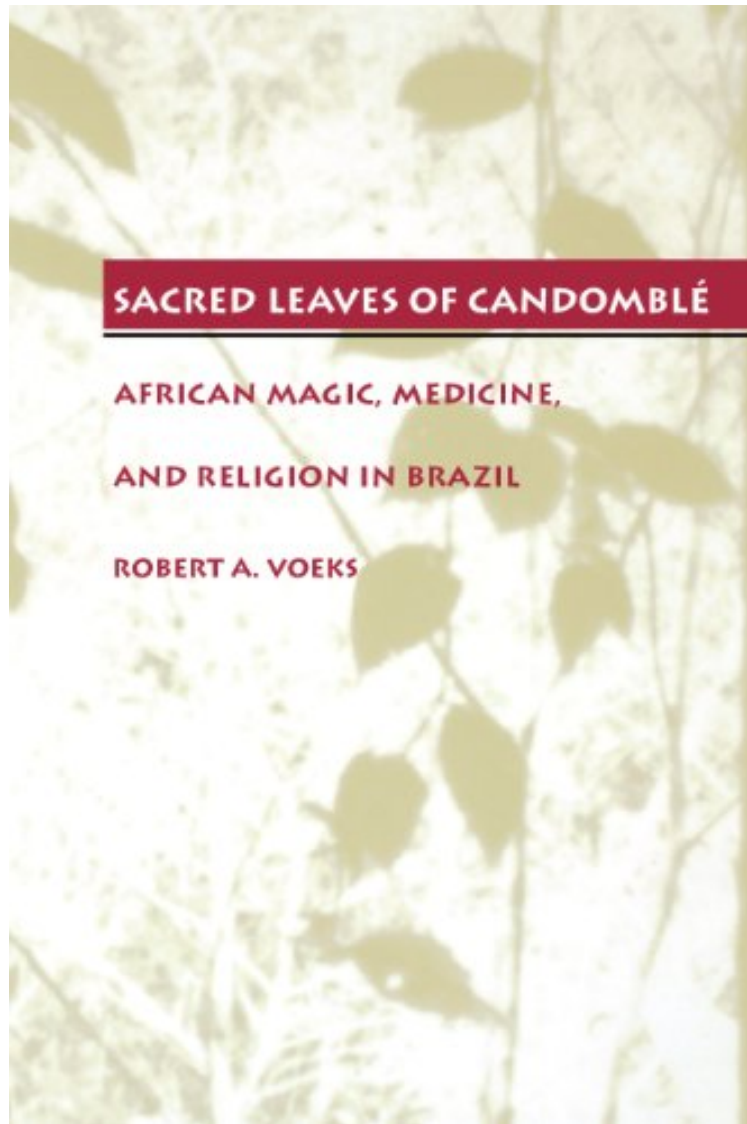


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Sacred Leaves of Candombl: African Magic, Medicine, and Religion in Brazil

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Winner, Hubert Herring Book Award, Pacific Coast Council on Latin American StudiesCandomblé, an African religious and healing tradition that spread to Brazil during the slave trade, relies heavily on the use of plants in its spiritual and medicinal practices. When its African adherents were forcibly transplanted to the New World, they faced the challenge not only of maintaining their culture and beliefs in the face of European domination but also of finding plants with similar properties to the ones they had used in Africa.This book traces the origin, diffusion, medicinal use, and meaning of Candomblé's healing pharmacopoeiathe sacred leaves. Robert Voeks examines such topics as the biogeography of Africa and Brazil, the transferenceand transformationof Candomblé as its adherents encountered both native South American belief systems and European Christianity, and the African system of medicinal plant classification that allowed Candomblé to survive and even thrive in the New World. This research casts new light on topics ranging from the creation of African American cultures to tropical rain forest healing floras.

"...[A] creative contribution to Afro-Brazilian studies, ethnobotany, and environmental history.... Simply and engagingly written, it is both appropriate for introductory-level undergraduate courses and an important work for specialists on Afro-Brazilian religions." (Hispanic American Historical)"Fascinating because it brings together in a single book information drawn widely from the several disciplines of geography, botany, history, and anthropology to provide an account of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé... in a competent and readable manner." (Sandra Lauderdale Graham, author of *House and Street: The Domestic World of Servants and Masters in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*) "Fascinating because it brings together in a single book information drawn widely from the several disciplines of geography, botany, history, and anthropology to provide an account of the Afro-Brazilian religion Candomblé... in a competent and readable manner." (Sandra Lauderdale Graham, author of *House and Street: The Domestic World of Servants and Masters in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*)About the AuthorRobert A. Voeks is Professor of Geography at California State University, Fullerton.