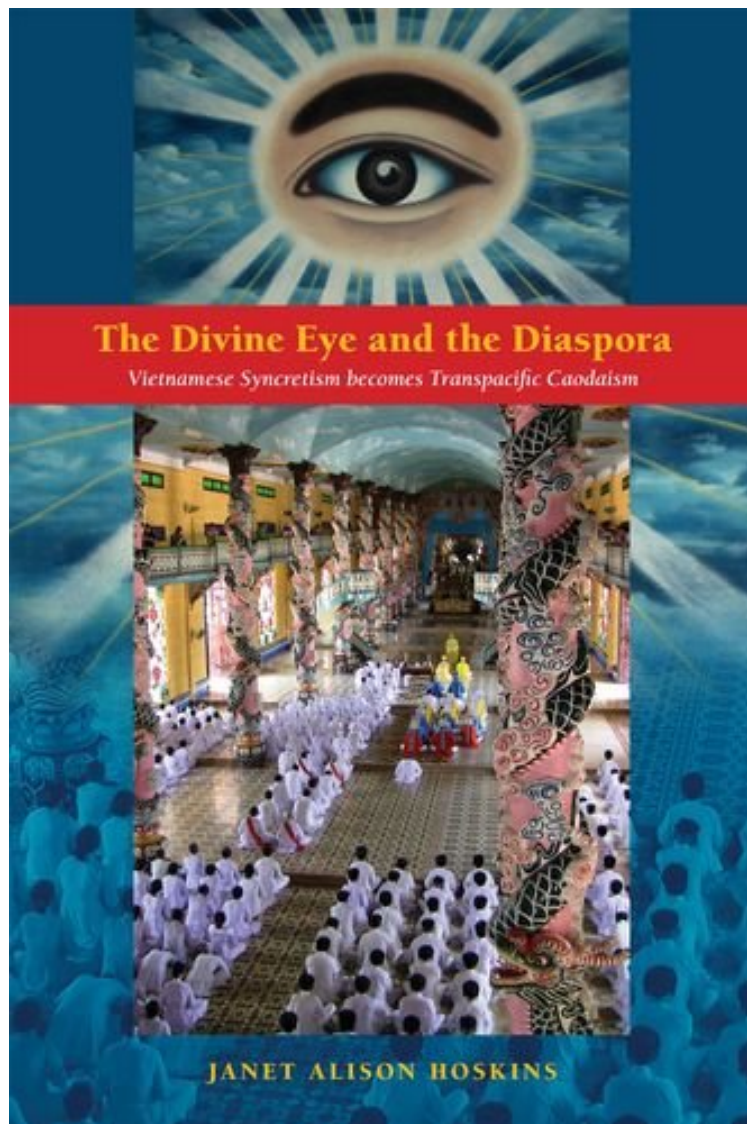


[Free read ebook] The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Syncretism Becomes Transpacific Caodaism

The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Syncretism Becomes Transpacific Caodaism

Janet Alison Hoskins

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Janet Alison Hoskins : The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Syncretism Becomes Transpacific Caodaism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Syncretism Becomes Transpacific Caodaism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on the CAO DAI religion By C. Tran For anyone

wanting to do research on Caodaism, this is one of the books needed to be read.

What is the relationship between syncretism and diaspora? Caodaism is a large but almost unknown new religion that provides answers to this question. Born in Vietnam during the struggles of decolonization, shattered and spatially dispersed by cold war conflicts, it is now reshaping the goals of its four million followers. Colorful and strikingly eclectic, its outrageous syncretism incorporates Chinese, Buddhist, and Western religions as well as world figures like Victor Hugo, Jeanne d'Arc, Vladimir Lenin, and (in the USA) Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism. The book looks at the connections between the age of revelations (1925-1934) in French Indochina and the age of diaspora (1975-present) when many Caodai leaders and followers went into exile. Structured in paired biographies to trace relations between masters and disciples, now separated by oceans, it focuses on five members of the founding generation and their followers or descendants in California, showing the continuing obligation to honor those who forged the initial vision to bring the gods of the East and West together. Diasporic congregations in California have interacted with New Age ideas and stereotypes of a Walt Disney fantasia of the East, at the same time that temples in Vietnam have re-opened their doors after decades of severe restrictions. Caodaism forces us to reconsider how anthropologists study religious mixtures in postcolonial settings. Its dynamics challenge the unconscious Eurocentrism of our notions of how religions are bounded and conceptualized.

Centering on the notion of 'Transpacific religion,' Hoskins pairs the biographical profiles of five founding generation adherents with those of their diasporic successors, also depicting the wider contexts of both. In doing so, she skillfully weaves a brilliantly engaging narrative, outlining the complex history and nature of this movement in Vietnam and overseas. . . . This is an essential reading for the student of Vietnamese religions and those dealing with East Asian new religious movements in general.-- "Religious Studies , 42:1 (March 2016)" Hoskins's book is a tour de force. It is a deep history, which incorporates a wide-range of primary and secondary (including film and fiction) sources in Vietnamese. It is a complex ethnography with photographs, interviews, and an intimate portrait of a community that has survived despite emerging from and growing up in one of the most violent places of the 20th century. It is a well-crafted historiography of the ways in which tourists, scholars, novelists, and politicians have depicted, often wrongly, this apparently very odd religion. . . . This book should be essential reading for students and scholars of modern Vietnam Studies and diaspora studies.--Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania "SOJOURN Symposium, 31:3 (November 2016)" The Divine Eye and the Diaspora is meticulously researched, richly detailed and engagingly written, making accessible to Anglophone readers the world of Cao ai believers overseas and in Vietnam. Her deeply sympathetic portrayal is especially welcome given the complexity of Cao ai religion and the misunderstandings to which its equally complicated history has given rise.--Hue-Tam Ho Tai, Harvard University "SOJOURN Symposium, 31:3 (November 2016)" Hoskins's book is a tour de force. It is a deep history, which incorporates a wide-range of primary and secondary (including film and fiction) sources in Vietnamese. It is a complex ethnography with photographs, interviews, and an intimate portrait of a community that has survived despite emerging from and growing up in one of the most violent places of the 20th century. It is a well-crafted historiography of the ways in which tourists, scholars, novelists, and politicians have depicted, often wrongly, this apparently very odd religion. . . . This book should be essential reading for students and scholars of modern Vietnam Studies and diaspora studies.--Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania "SOJOURN Symposium, 31:3 (November 2016)" Hoskins demonstrates that what others have observed as an outrageous religion was, in fact, a drive that was serving a specific function for its community at every point. In short, the first half of Caodaism's history served to liberate a colonized Vietnam and the second half alleviated the tensions of exile and migration. . . . The Divine Eye and the Diaspora is an impressive project, one that demonstrates the importance of long-term ethnographic research and the expertise that can only be obtained from years of participant observation.--Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania "Nova Religio, 20:2 (November 2016)" [T]he rich ethnographic work of the book promises to provide several questions that are ripe for classroom discussion and further analysis. . . . While the book is certainly a contribution for the specific study of the Cao ai religion and the Vietnamese diaspora, it also provides a good amount of material to discuss with students and fellow researchers in the fields of history, anthropology, religious studies and diaspora studies.--Justin McDaniel, University of Pennsylvania "New Mandala, 13 September 2015" Centering on the notion of 'Transpacific religion,' Hoskins pairs the biographical profiles of five founding generation adherents with those of their diasporic successors, also depicting the wider contexts of both. In doing so, she skillfully weaves a brilliantly engaging narrative, outlining the complex history and nature of this movement in Vietnam and overseas. . . . This is an essential reading for the student of Vietnamese religions and those dealing with East Asian new religious movements in general. (Religious Studies , 42:1 (March 2016)) The Divine Eye and the Diaspora is meticulously researched, richly detailed and engagingly written, making accessible to Anglophone readers the world of Cao i believers overseas and in Vietnam. Her deeply sympathetic portrayal is especially welcome given the complexity of Cao i religion and the misunderstandings to which its equally complicated history has given rise. (Hue-Tam Ho Tai, Harvard University SOJOURN Symposium, 31:3 (November 2016)) Hoskinss book is a tour de force. It is a deep history, which

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