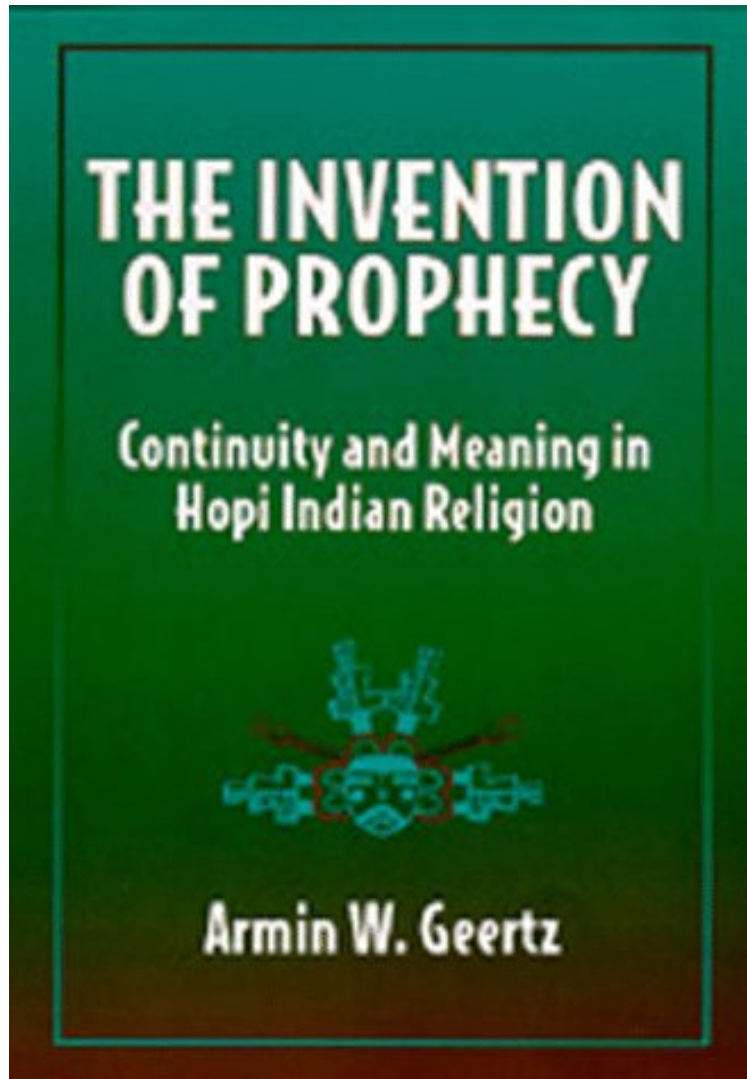


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The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion

Armin W. Geertz

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Armin W. Geertz : The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. New Age Practitioners: Hang on a minute, read this bookBy A CustomerA very interesting hypothesis and probably right on track. It is easy to believe that the grandeur of the "Hopi Prophecies" is merely a product of charlatan spoof that has precipitated ridiculous misconceptions and notions of a

very important aspect of Hopi culture. Perhaps some elements of these prophecies are based in truth but what Armin Geertz has shown is that because of political factionalism and intracultural bias many of these myths of Hopi religion were created merely to make certain non-Hopi individuals a great deal of money and to substantiate the political (and thus prestigious) ambitions of particular Hopi leaders. Before you jump onto the "New Age" bandwagon and start beating the drum to the dance of your commercial kachina, you should probably purchase this book and study it closely. In the end, just try thinking!

Armin Geertz corrects what he sees as basic American and European tendencies to misrepresent non-Western cultures. Carefully documenting the historical role of prophecy in Hopi Indian religion, Geertz shows how prophecies about the end of the world have been created by the Hopi Traditionalist Movement and used by non-Indian movements, cults, and interest groups. Many of the seeming peculiarities of Hopi religion and culture have been invented, he says, by tourists, novelists, journalists, and scholars, and the millennial Traditionalist Movement has subtly co-authored European and American stereotypes of Indians. Geertz's richly detailed examples and persuasive arguments will be welcomed by all those interested in Native American studies, comparative religions, anthropology, and sociology.

"Methodologically sophisticated, theoretically informed, and substantively significant. It represents a major achievement by a gifted scholar in comparative religion who has already established his competence, creativity and resourcefulness in his previous publications. This book presents an extended analysis and discussion of important features of Hopi Religion, especially prophecy, as well as relevant approaches to the study of religion. Because of this dual focus "The Invention of Prophecy advances not only our knowledge of Hopi Religion, but also the debate about theory and method currently proceeding in comparative religion. . . . Scholars will welcome this magnificent contribution not only to our knowledge of Hopi religion but also to the scientific study of religion."--"Numen From the Inside Flap" "The most important contribution to the history of Hopi religion that is currently available." Fred Eggan, University of Chicago "Especially effective as a critique and displacement of largely misconceived and widely accepted interpretations of Hopi myth and Hopi political factionalism." Peter Whiteley, Sarah Lawrence College