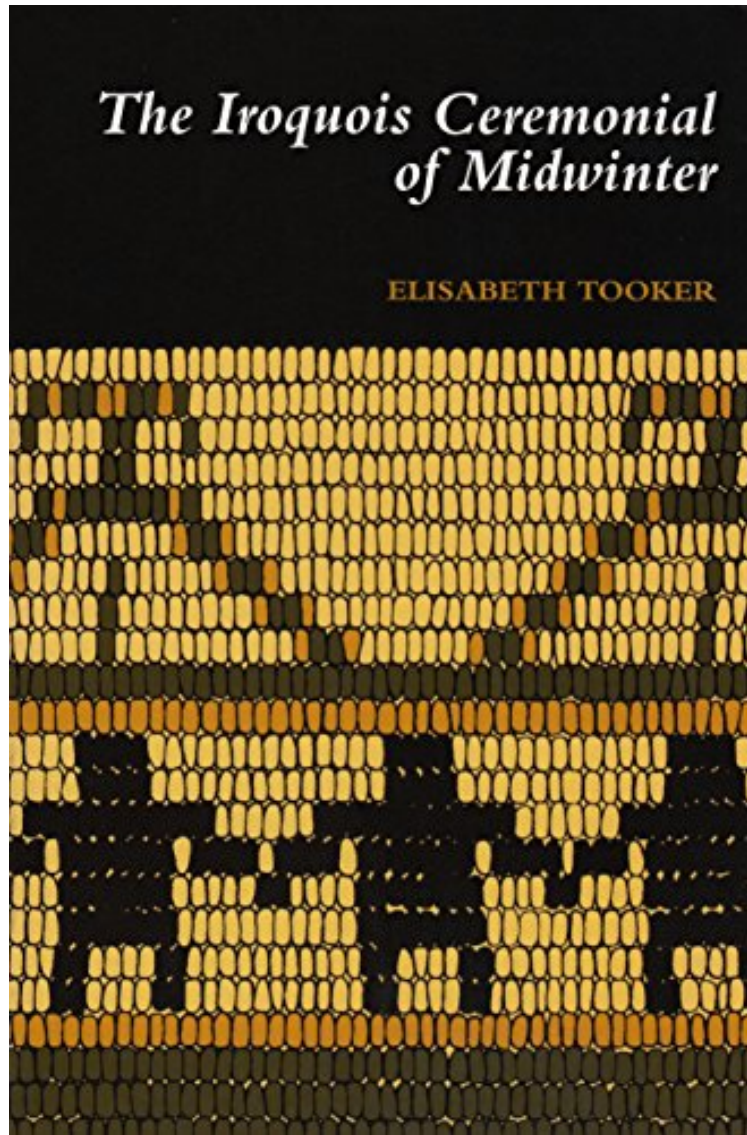


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The Iroquois Ceremonial of Midwinter (The Iroquois and Their Neighbors)

Elisabeth Tooker

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Elisabeth Tooker : The Iroquois Ceremonial of Midwinter (The Iroquois and Their Neighbors) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Iroquois Ceremonial of Midwinter (The Iroquois and Their Neighbors):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A unique work of impressive and detailed scholarship. By Midwest Book Review In The Iroquois Ceremonial Of Midwinter, Elisabeth Tooker reviews and presents a synthesis of

materials related to the redemptive/absolution ceremony as practiced by Iroquois in the 17th to 19th centuries. Material from the Code of Handsome Lake is included as well as observations by Beauchamp, Hewitt, Morganspeck, Parker, Blau, and Fenton. The author's own vast observation, experience and adoption into the Beaver clan are integral parts underlying the structural analysis of the rituals. This is a valuable work for both Native American and comparative religious studies. Though it is clear the speaker is nonNative, she challenges damaging assumptions such as the projection of aspiration to the dominant culture's values. I believe this book is also touching and memorable in its mourning of the passing of Seneca figures such as the author's friend, Elsina. She asks the painful question, can the religion of the Longhouse survive? Also of concern is the survival of the Seneca language. Though answers are not given, *The Iroquois Ceremonial Of Midwinter* presents as a unique, intriguing work with much painstaking detail and rich associations. The tone is pure and passionate, a gift in such a fine work of scholarship, sure to appeal to students and lovers of Iroquois culture and history. Nancy Lorraine, Reviewer

This work examines the Midwinter ceremonial, the longest and most complex ritual of the Longhouse religion, in three parts. It looks at the principles of Iroquois ritualism, detailed accounts of the ritual as it is performed nowadays and its historical context.

Reproduces and analyzes descriptions of the Midwinter dating from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. Ethnologists and ethnohistorians alike will be much indebted to the author for bringing this scattered information together and providing a careful evaluation of it. (Barbara Graymont, author of *The Iroquois in the American Revolution*) Tooker has written an excellent book valuable not only to the North American Indian specialist, but also to any student of comparative religion. (*Journal of American Folklore*) The book, carefully researched, is a valuable addition to the growing literature of Iroquois ritualism, supplementing the works of Beauchamp, Hewitt, Morgan, Speck, Parker, Blau, and Fenton. Especially recommended for students of anthropology and religion. (Choice) "Tooker's work is written from a point of view outside Iroquois culture, its very objectivity constitutes a virtue to all non-Iroquois. . . . In the sense that it indicates the religious forms people still have as live options in today's world. *The Iroquois Ceremonial of Midwinter* may be quite valuable to the younger generation. (Saturday)