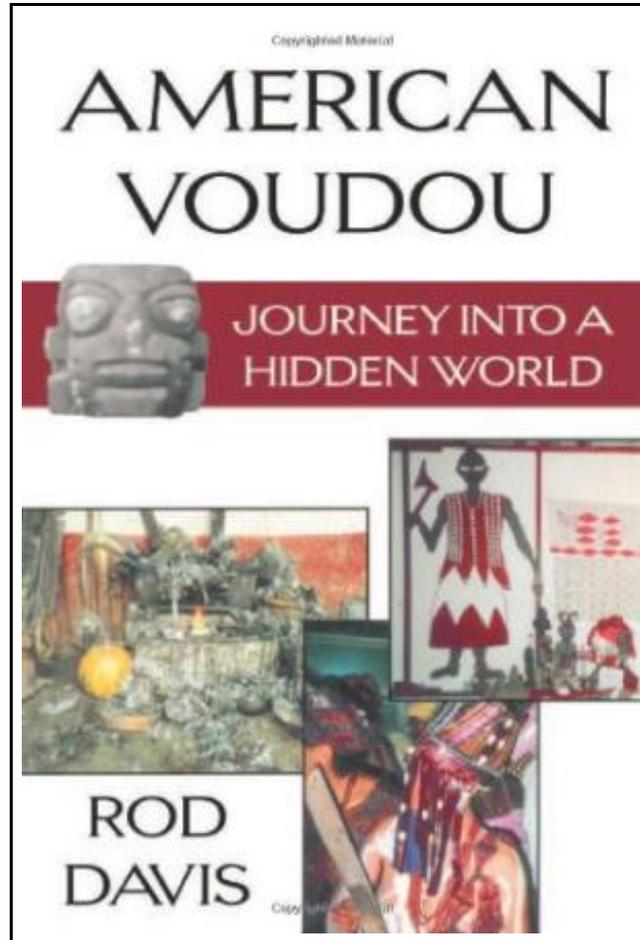


American Voudou: Journey Into a Hidden World



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AMERICAN VOUDOU: JOURNEY INTO A HIDDEN WORLD



University of North Texas Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 360 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.1in. x 1.0in. Voudou (an older spelling of voodoo) a pantheistic belief system developed in West Africa and transported to the Americas during the diaspora of the slave trade is the generic term for a number of similar African religions which mutated in the Americas, including santeria, candomble, macumbe, obeah, Shango Baptist, etc. Since its violent introduction in the Caribbean islands, it has been the least understood and most feared religion of the New World, suppressed, outlawed or ridiculed from Haiti to Hattiesburg. Yet with the exception of Zora Neale Hurston's accounts more than a half-century ago and a smattering of lurid, often racist paperbacks, studies of this potent West African theology have focused almost exclusively on Haiti, Cuba and the Caribbean basin. American Voudou turns our gaze back to American shores, principally towards the South, the most important and enduring stronghold of the voodoo faith in America and site of its historic yet rarely recounted war with Christianity. This chronicle of Davis's determined search for the true legacy of voodoo in America reveals a spirit-world from New Orleans to Miami which will shatter long-held stereotypes about the religion and its role in our culture. The real-life dramas of the practitioners, true believers and skeptics of the voodoo world also offer a radically different entree into a half-hidden, half-mythical South, and by extension into an alternate soul of America. Readers interested in the dynamic relationships between religion and society, and in the choices made by people caught in the flux of conflict, will be heartened by this unique story of survival and even renaissance of what may have been the most persecuted religion in American history. Traveling on a criss-cross route from New Orleans across the slave-belt states of...



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