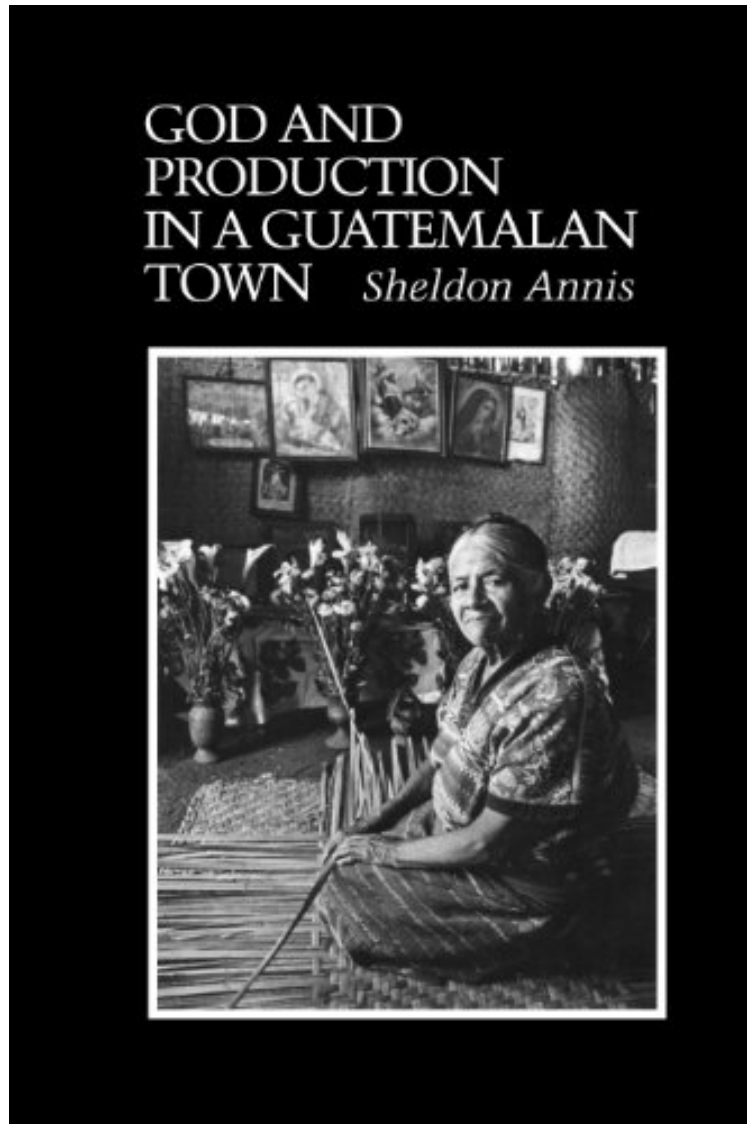


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God and Production in a Guatemalan Town (Texas Pan American Series)

Sheldon Annis

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Sheldon Annis : God and Production in a Guatemalan Town (Texas Pan American Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God and Production in a Guatemalan Town (Texas Pan American Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. SociologyBy PghMikeThis book provided background for an area of interest, e.g. the influence of missionaries. Together with a couple of other books, it served me well. The price was certainly a bargain (\$4.00). I love to buy used books through 's partners.2 of 2 people found the following review

helpful. Intriguing and educational. I read this once for an undergraduate Anthropology class, and never forgot it. It delineates the difference in work ethic and cultural values between the Protestants and Catholics in one South American town, and how they are divided in every aspect. Nothing came down to actual issues of faith, but more on concepts stemming from the religions themselves. For instance, in weaving blankets, the Protestants made lovely, organized patterns which utilized logical color arrangements for aesthetic efficiency. The Catholics used a riot of color in their weaving, producing a beautiful and unique work with each one. In short, this book was interesting even as to a lay person.

Since the late 1970s, Protestantism has emerged as a major force in the political and economic life of rural Guatemala. Indeed, as Sheldon Annis argues in this book, Protestantism may have helped tip Guatemala's guerrilla war in behalf of the army during the early 1980s. But what is it about Protestantism and about Indians that has led to massive religious conversion throughout the highlands? And in villages today, what are the dynamics that underlie the competition between Protestants and Catholics? Sheldon Annis addresses these questions from the perspective of San Antonio Aguas Calientes, an Indian village in the highlands of midwestern Guatemala. Annis skillfully blends economic and cultural analysis to show why Protestantism has taken root. The key "character" in his drama is the village Indian's tiny plot of corn and beans, the milpa, which Annis analyzes as an "idea" as well as an agronomic productive system. By exploring "milpa logic," Annis shows how the economic, environmental, and social shifts of the twentieth century have acted to undercut "the colonial creation of Indianness" and, in doing so, have laid the basis for new cultural identities.

"This book is one of the most systematic treatments of Guatemalan community economic behavior in the literature and it deserves a wide audience." (American Anthropologist)