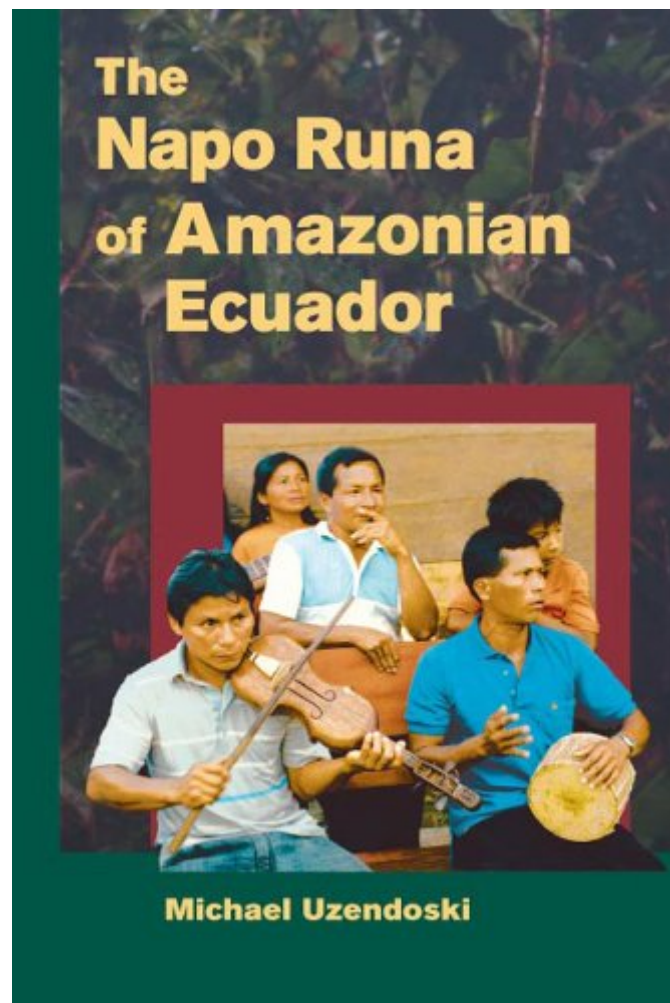


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The Napo Runa Of Ian Ecuador (Interpretations Of Culture In The New Millennium)



Synopsis

Based upon historical and archival research, as well as the author's years of fieldwork in indigenous communities, Michael Uzendoski's theoretically informed work analyzes value from the perspective of the Napo Runa people of the highland Ecuador. Written in a clear and readable style, *The Napo Runa of highland Ecuador* presents theoretical issues of value, poetics, and kinship as linked to the author's intersubjective experiences in Napo Runa culture. Drawing on insights from the theory of gift and value, Uzendoski argues that Napo Runa culture personifies value by transforming things into people through a process of subordinating them to human relationships. While many traditional exchange models treat the production of things as inconsequential, the Napo Runa understand production to involve a relationship with natural beings (plants, animals, spirits of the forest), which are considered to be subjects that share spiritual substance, or *samai*. Throughout the book, value is revealed as the outcome of a complicated poetics of transformation by which things and persons are woven into kinship forms that define daily social and ritual life.

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Customer Reviews

Uzendoski, does a nicely balanced job of mixing technical anthropological thought, real life

experience and contemporary happenings into the chapters of this book. In contrast to many other ethnographies it is not a dry, overly academic text that only others in the area of study could grasp. As one reads about the aspects about Napo Runa life, you also get a glimpse into what goes on in the changing environment where these people live. Their presentation in this text definitely helps export their humanity to the reader. It has a writing style that is nicely detailed and formed in such a way to be inclusive to any reader with a genuine interest in the Napo Runa or Kichwa peoples in general. Well worth the buy.

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