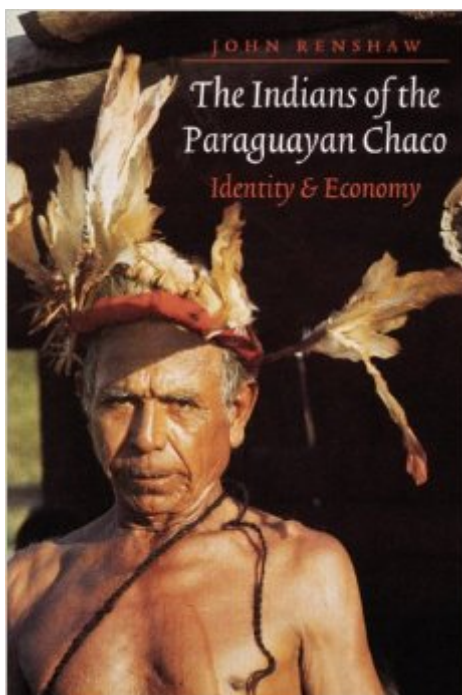


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The Indians Of The Paraguayan Chaco: Identity And Economy



Synopsis

Some forty thousand Native people live in the vast region of the Chaco in western Paraguay. They belong to five linguistic families and thirteen ethnic groups but share a common sense of ethnic identity founded on enduring values of reciprocity and equality. At the same time the Indians of the Chaco are one of the poorest groups in Paraguay, situated on the margins of the global economic system. Based on extensive fieldwork and ongoing contact with local indigenous organizations in Paraguay, John Renshaw presents an overview of contemporary Indian life in the Paraguayan Chaco. He describes the subsistence and market economies, household and kinship systems, political organization, and the challenges of economic development. Renshaw also examines the experiences of indigenous organizations and the impact of development projects and considers whether it is possible to envisage a program of social and economic development that would respect and strengthen the Indians' sense of identity.

Book Information

Paperback: 305 pages

Publisher: University of Nebraska Press (October 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080328991X

ISBN-13: 978-0803289918

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #4,218,953 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Paraguay #8631 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies #13354 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

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