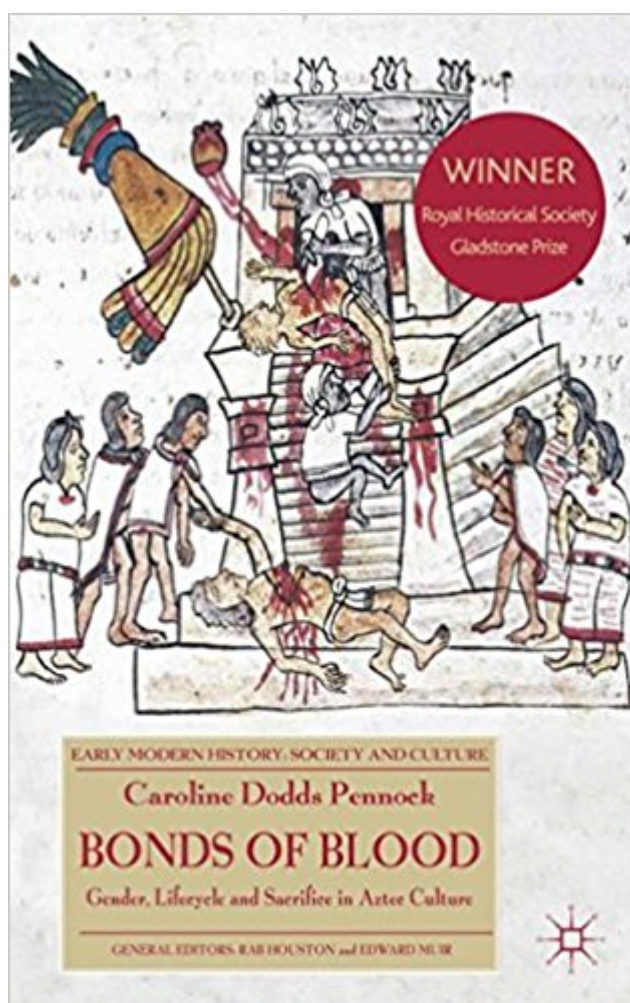


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Bonds Of Blood: Gender, Lifecycle, And Sacrifice In Aztec Culture (Early Modern History: Society And Culture)



Synopsis

The history of the Aztecs has been haunted by the spectre of human sacrifice. Reinvesting the Aztecs with a humanity frequently denied to them, and exploring their spectacular religious violence as a comprehensible element of life, this book integrates a fresh interpretation of gender with an innovative study of the everyday life of the Aztecs.

Book Information

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Winner of the 2008 Royal Historical Society Gladstone Prize The judges said of Dr Dodds

Pennock's book: 'Few fields of study can present the historian with such a challenge as the world of the pre-conquest Aztecs ... [a] challenge that Caroline Dodds Pennock meets triumphantly. Her analysis of the rich but problematic evidence is unfailingly rigorous. Both theoretical and methodological sophistication, however, are worn lightly. What emerges is a vivid and convincing reconstruction of a society whose harsh view of life and death was tempered by the experience of warmth, and even joy, achieved through human relationships and the routines of everyday life.' 'An exceptional volume because of its humanising approach and attention to individual concerns, emotions, and perspectives. This beautifully written book is recommended for a wide readership, from undergraduate students to accomplished Mesoamerican scholars.' - Lisa Overholtzer, Bulletin of Latin American Research 'Gender specialists and students of all levels will find worthwhile [Dodds Pennock's] search for the intimate as revealed by sources that downplay the personal and affective, rendered as it is in graceful, accessible prose. - Susan Kellogg, Hispanic American Historical Review

'This study, beautifully written and organized, is a fresh approach to both the problems of understanding Aztec human sacrifice, a problem as old as the first European viewers of this society in the sixteenth century, and of characterizing Aztec gender relations, which was introduced as a field of study in the latter half of the twentieth century. With exhaustive research Caroline Dodds Pennock ties together these two strains of enquiry in a tour-de-force argument that resolves many seeming contradictions and allows the modern Westerner to enter Aztec society with less apprehension. While making sense of Aztec thought, even more valuable is her humanization of the Aztecs through the publication of the few texts that reveal intimate and individual aspects of behaviour and interpretation of well-known formulaic pronouncements as moving expressions of human emotion. This last is a difficult feat to accomplish for a culture that is usually presented as overwhelmingly communal, public, and unfeeling.' - Emily Umberger, Arizona State University, USA

' This highly accessible dissertation-turned-manuscript will be of value to a wide audience...This beautifully written book is recommended for a wide readership.' - Anglia

CAROLINE DODDS PENNOCK is Lecturer in International History at the University of Sheffield, having previously held posts in Cambridge and Leicester. She is the author of both popular and scholarly articles on Aztec and Atlantic history and has also worked on several projects for the BBC.

If you have any interest in Aztec culture and day to day life in those times, this is a must have book. Thorough research, extensive bibliography, and solid writing support an excellent description of day to day life, attitudes and belief systems within the Aztec world. This work takes the reader on a comprehensive voyage in time leading to a greater understanding of their actions and world view. Very readable and interesting. Dare I say about an academic book on a remote subject... A "page turner"!

An interesting read of its very specific subject.

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