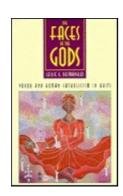
THE FACES OF THE GODS: VODOU AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN HAITI

Vodou, the folk religion of Haiti, is a by-product of the contact between Roman Catholicism and African and Amerindian traditional religions. In this book, Leslie Desmangles analyzes the mythology and rituals of Vodou, focusing particularly on the inclusion of West African and European elements in Vodouisants' beliefs and practices. Desmangles sees Vodou not simply as a grafting of European religious traditions onto African stock, but...



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The Faces of the Gods: Vodou and Roman Catholicism in Haiti

Author	Leslie G. Desmangles
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Reader's Opinions

Good book that is refreshingly respectful of Vodou. There are some biases in which Desmangles refuses to be critical of either the US or the Catholic Church, both of whom established clearly racist policies against Haiti in her early independence. There is also a base assumption that Catholicism is a true, universal, humanist religion...

This was an interesting book, but not one that really catches the attention. It was heavy on the historical roots of Haiti and the evolution of Vodou and light on the human component of the Haitian religious traditions, which made it somewhat dry and difficult to get through. A good read, but not a great one.