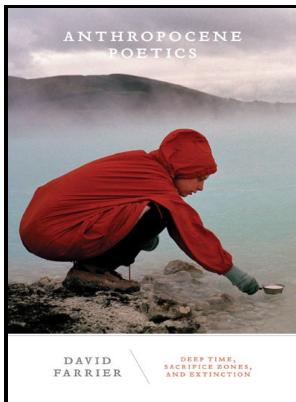


# Science of sacrifice - American literature and modern social theory

Princeton University Press - The Science of Sacrifice

Description: -



Corn -- Illinois -- Varieties.  
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 Literature and society -- United States.  
 Literature and anthropology -- United States.  
 Sacrifice in literature.  
 American literature -- History and criticism.  
 science of sacrifice -  
 American literature and modern social theory  
 -science of sacrifice - American literature and modern social theory  
 Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 371-426) and index.  
 This edition was published in 1998

Tags: #The #Science #of #Sacrifice

**Susan L. Mizruchi, The Science of Sacrifice American Literature and Modern Social Theory**

Her examples range from the extreme -- the execution of Billy Budd and depictions of lynching -- to everyday examples of self-sacrifice, charity, and welfare. She read through some 30 years of journals from what would later become the American Sociological Association. The trees whispered to the grass, but the children sat with hushed faces.

**De Gruyter**

Susan Mizruchi works comfortably in the disciplines she excavates, and her insights are extremely illuminating and frequently brilliant.

**Susan L. Mizruchi, The Science of Sacrifice American Literature and Modern Social Theory**

True to form for a scholar of literature, Mizruchi presents textual evidence to substantiate and illuminate her interpretations. The execution in Billy Budd Sailor, the death of Du Bois's first-born son in *The Souls of Black Folk*, Henry James's preoccupation with renunciation and scapegoating, and the self-denying working classes of Norris and Stein all illustrate repeated stagings of sacrificial rituals from a Biblical past. Social theorists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries shared that interest, but literary scholars had rarely turned to the social sciences.

**Project MUSE**

Dames Award, in Political Science W. Perkins, Laurie Radovsky, Mary S.

**Susan L. Mizruchi, The Science of Sacrifice American Literature and Modern Social Theory**

This is a book about the fascination that sacrifice held for writers — principally Herman Melville, Henry James, and W.

## **The Science of Sacrifice**

The major features of sacrifice--its original association with spiritual doubt, its function as a form of spiritual economics that sustained divisions between the fortunate and the bereft, and its role in fixing boundaries between aliens and kin--held strong symbolic value for writers struggling to reconcile faith with rationalism, and communal coherence with capitalist expansion. We seemed to rumble down an unknown street behind a little white bundle of posies, with the shadow of a song in our ears.

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