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ABSTRACTS

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L'IDENTITÉ ABORIGÈNE A TRAVERS LES AUTOBIOGRAPHIES DE FEMMES ABORIGÈNES D'AUSTRALIE

ABORIGINAL IDENTITY THROUGH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

This article focuses on the way Aboriginal identity is perceived through Aboriginal women's life stories. On a temporal scale, these autobiographical writings take into account several generations. Born at the beginning of the 20th century, some Aboriginal writers lived through the assimilation policy whereas others, born in the 1940s, had to face the consequences of such a policy. Assimilating Aboriginal people into the wider white society has deeply altered traditional Aboriginal identity. As a result, Aboriginal identity has become a complex issue to such extend that it is now difficult to give a precise definition of Aboriginality that could suit every Aborigine in today's Australia.

Claude RIVIÈRE

ÉVALUATION DES THÉORIES DU SACRIFICE

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE THEORIES OF SACRIFICE

Starting with Edward B. Tylor (*Primitive Culture*, 1871) up to contemporary authors such as René Girard or Claude Lévi-Strauss, a great variety of theories have been elaborated, differing between themselves as to the origin of sacrificial rituals (a self-interested gift to the spirits, or a remnant of ancien murders?), as well as to their functional role (to soften infuriated gods, or to express gratitude for their benevolence?). While each one of these theories claims universal validity, each one has been constructed and substantiated in close association with specific cultural models and empirical contexts which were most familiar to its author.

Pierre ERNY

LE MONDE A PART DES TWA DU RWANDA

THE ASIDE WORLD OF RWANDA'S TWA

Rwanda's Twa, most generally included in the pygmoïd populations of Central Africa, present physical, social and cultural features which have tended to justify their qualifications as "race", "ethnic group" or "caste". Despised and prejudiced by the Tutsi as well as by the Hutu, they live apart, disseminated in small family groups which practice either hunting or pottery. At the time of the kingdom, they were very active at the court, occupying various functions, among which that of executioner. Within a society subject to very high constraints, the aside world of the Twa represents unto this day a surprising islet of freedom.