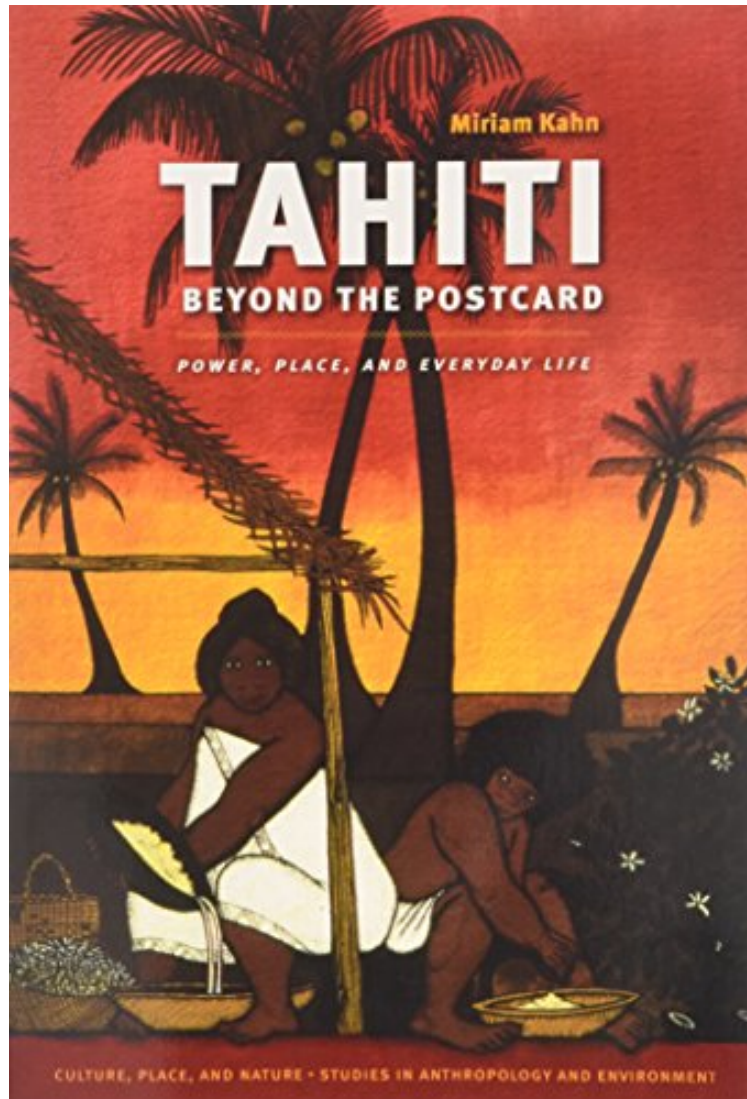


(Download free pdf) Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life (Culture, Place, and Nature)

Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life (Culture, Place, and Nature)

Miriam Kahn

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#1183464 in Books 2011-02-08 2011-02-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .65 x 5.981, .97 #File Name: 029599102X288 pages | File size: 50.Mb

Miriam Kahn : Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life (Culture, Place, and Nature) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tahiti Beyond the Postcard: Power, Place, and Everyday Life (Culture, Place, and Nature):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really interesting By angel jones I was required to buy this for a class

by the professor who wrote the book. It actually turned out to be a pretty good book as far as readability, but also it is a really good ethnography. I'm an anthropologist and I feel myself pretty immune to stuff like being sold by the advertising of "exotic" places. I had to admit that the advertising for Tahiti, even though intellectually I KNEW BETTER, sucked me in. This is a really good account of the real lives of Tahitians who still live under colonialism, trying to find a place in their own society that has been commodified for sale as an exotic "other." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interested side to TahitiBy SiveAuthor lived there and gave a side to Tahiti that you would not find in the usual travel books. I picked the book because we are traveling to French Polynesia. I have a better understanding of the country now. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy Crispin ThurlowElegantly and accessibly written, this book offers an exemplary and deeply respectful coupling of scholarship from the 'global core' and the 'global periphery'. And, to be sure, Miriam Kahn's is not a sentimental, condescending use of non-Western ways of knowing. She presents an array of contemporary and historical, academic and vernacular texts, all grounded in several decades of ethnographic engagement in/with Tahiti. Confidently, but not bullishly, Kahn remains rooted in her disciplinarity as an anthropologist while writing a properly transdisciplinary book - one that speaks across, and insightfully connects, geography, history, literature and art, as well as cultural, postcolonial and tourism studies. In her effort to stay true to the distinctive cultural politics of French Polynesia, however, Kahn avoids forcing her site into her literature. Academic voices are there to illuminate not determine the complex meanings and uncomfortable histories of Tahiti. It's why, for example, the book is primarily about the production and mythologization of place and not simply about tourism. What Kahn fully understands - what drives her never-shrill critique - is that tourism is just one formation in a long-standing, power-laden struggle over space. Nor is Tahiti tritely accounted for here by a narrative of omnipotent visitors-cum-colonizers and passive, victimized locals. In this regard, I recommend the penultimate chapter of the book titled 'Everyday Spaces of Resistance' in which Kahn presents a beautifully articulated account of Tahitians' efforts to control the discourse by (re)asserting their own 'lived experiences' of the place they call home. Once you've finished with this concluding chapter, you'll not be able to resist turning to the first word of Introduction and pursuing the book in its entirety. [REVIEWER: Crispin Thurlow, author of 'Tourism Discourse: Language and Global Mobility']

Winner of the 2013 ICAS Book Prize (Social Sciences)The Tahiti that most people imagine - white-sand beaches, turquoise lagoons, and beautiful women - is a product of 18th century European romanticism and persists today as the bedrock of Tahiti's tourism industry. This postcard image, however, masks a different reality. The dreams and desires that the tourism industry promotes distract from the medical nightmares and environmental destruction caused by France's 30-year nuclear testing program in French Polynesia. Tahitians see the burying of a bomb in their land as deeply offensive. For Tahitians, the land abounds with ancestral fertility, and genealogical identity, and is a source of physical and spiritual nourishment. These imagined and lived perspectives seem incompatible, yet are intricately intertwined in the political economy. Tahiti Beyond the Postcard engages with questions about the subtle but ubiquitous ways in which power entangles itself in place-related ways. Miriam Kahn uses interpretive frameworks of both Tahitian and European scholars, drawing upon ethnographic details that include ancient chants, picture postcards, antinuclear protests, popular song lyrics, and the legacy of Paul Gauguin's art, to provide fresh perspectives on colonialism, tourism, imagery, and the anthropology of place.

"Tahitian salvation from the pretty picture could get ugly . . . but at least Kahn's book already alerts the international media to scrutinize Tahiti and French Polynesia under critical commentary, and not just the travel pages." Frances Mae Carolina Ramos, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, Vol. 43:2 "A welcome addition to any ethnography course focusing on the Pacific, as well as courses or scholarship concerning tourism, the philosophy of space and place, the military in the Pacific, and the effects of colonialism. . . . any museum studies or museum anthropology course delving into the politics of display." Jennifer Wagelie, *Pacific Affairs*, December 2012 "This is a work for scholars seeking a dual view of both Polynesian and European perspectives and practices from one of the most mythical places in the world." Matt Matsuda, *Pacific Historical*, February 2012 "Kahn foregrounds the intertwined European and indigenous histories and experiences that constitute Tahiti and provides us with Tahitians' perspectives on life in a place that figures so centrally in historical and contemporary imaginings of tropical paradise. . . . methodologically and ethnographically rich." Colleen Ballerino Cohen, *American Anthropologist*, September 2012 "Kahn's book is an enjoyable ethnographic exploration of power, imagination, and the social production of space in its past and present." Susanna Trnka, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, Volume 67 2011 "Kahn writes beautifully about a beautiful place, which makes her book highly readable and inviting. With this accessibility, the theoretical dimension comes alive, and Kahn's work is, most importantly, the exposition of a sophisticated and powerfully explanatory political philosophy of space. Summing up: Highly recommended." *Choice*, November 2011 "Tahiti Beyond the Postcard is provocative and original, and makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the contradictions associated with tourism and the politics of space in Tahiti." Stuart Kirsch, University of Michigan About the Author Miriam Kahn is professor of anthropology at the University of Washington and author of *Always Hungry, Never Greedy: Food and the Expression of Gender in a*

Melanesian Society and coauthor of Pacific Voices: Keeping Our Cultures Alive.