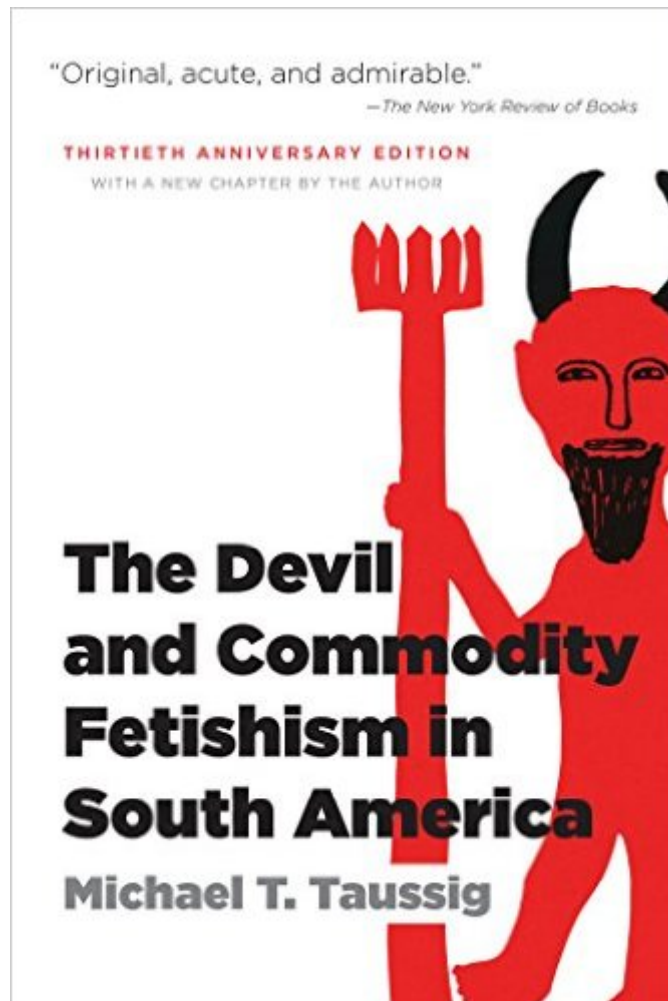


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The Devil And Commodity Fetishism In South America



Synopsis

In this classic book, Michael Taussig explores the social significance of the devil in the folklore of contemporary plantation workers and miners in South America. Grounding his analysis in Marxist theory, Taussig finds that the fetishization of evil, in the image of the devil, mediates the conflict between precapitalist and capitalist modes of objectifying the human condition. He links traditional narratives of the devil-pact, in which the soul is bartered for illusory or transitory power, with the way in which production in capitalist economies causes workers to become alienated from the commodities they produce. A new chapter for this anniversary edition features a discussion of Walter Benjamin and Georges Bataille that extends Taussig's ideas about the devil-pact metaphor.

Book Information

File Size: 1543 KB

Print Length: 315 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; 2 edition (March 15, 2010)

Publication Date: March 15, 2010

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B005XLUAO2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,035,175 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #100

in Books > History > Americas > South America > Bolivia #161 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia #509 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Business & Money > Economics > Development & Growth

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