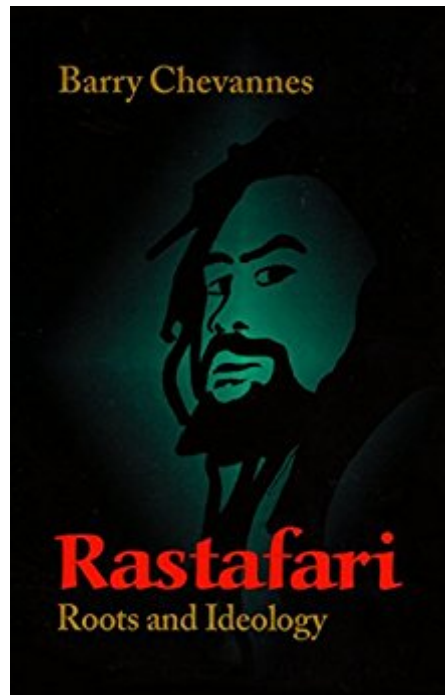




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Rastafari: Roots And Ideology (Utopianism And Communitarianism)



Synopsis

The first comprehensive work on the origins of the Jamaica-based Rastafaris, including interviews with some of the earliest members of the movement. Rastafari is a valuable work with a rich historical and ethnographic approach that seeks to correct several misconceptions in existing literature— the true origin of dreadlocks for instance. It will interest religion scholars, historians, scholars of Black studies, and a general audience interested in the movement and how Rastafarians settled in other countries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first got interested in Rastafarianism by way of William Gibson, who had several characters who were Dreadlocks. My ignorance of what that was all about was, well, somewhat shocking for me at the time. So, I started poking around. Quite a few years ago, I found Rastafari: Roots and Ideology by Barry Chevannes. It followed me around, unread, in a box for several years. Well, I finally read it

this past week. What a shame I waited so long! This was a very good book about the history and origins of a relatively new religion. Among other things, it was fascinating to track the birth of a new faith from its very start through the modern day. As a sociological look at a small, but growing, religious or spiritual movement, this is a great book. It is, however, a rather scholarly look at this movement and, as such, is somewhat dry at times. Still, it presents not only a well-rounded look at the religion, but also the socio-economic forces that shaped it. One of the main "pillars of faith", for instance, is the concept of "repatriation" to Ethiopia. This would never have come about if not for the practice of black slavery in the New World. I'll not attempt to describe the intricacies of Rastafarianism in a short message, but, if you're interested in knowing more, this book is a great place to start.

This is an excellent scholarly study of the roots of the Rastafari movement and religion. Barry Chevannes was one of the leading scholars who devoted his life's work to studying Rastafari. This book is especially valuable because Chevannes makes extensive use of interviews and other primary source material from early Rastas, so that you can read what they experienced in their own words.

Professor Barry Chevannes, who passed on in November, 2010, was the pre-eminent scholar about the Rastafari movement and an advocate for Rastafari rights in Jamaica. Other books have been written about Rastafari, but Barry's book contains transcriptions of interviews with Rastafari in the 1970s, which cannot be found elsewhere. Anyone interested in the sociology of this subject should have a copy Professor Chevannes' book.

Very informative; great history book, but hardly anything on the religion!

happy with purchase

Great in detail historical peice of literature but a slow read. It has a lot of historical info on the why of the rasta movement but Its not the best "how to rasta" bookJah bless

Not a compelling read, but scholarly and worthwhile. I'm still slogging through at a slow pace, and learning enough to make it to the end eventually.

Must Read!

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