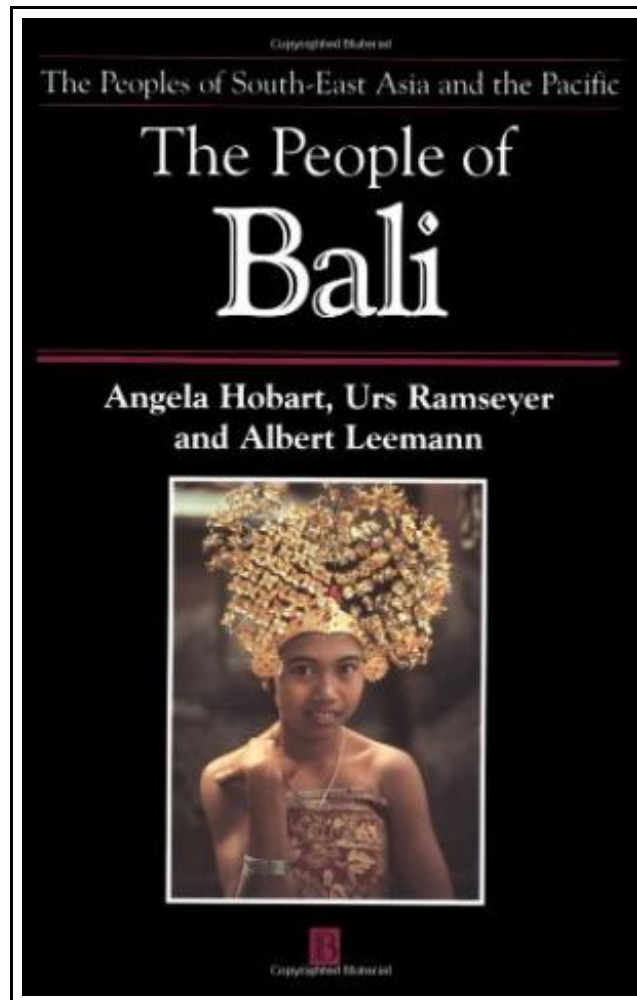


The People of Bali



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Reviews

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(Horace Schroeder)

THE PEOPLE OF BALI



John Wiley and Sons Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The People of Bali, Angela Hobart, Urs Ramseyer, Albert Leemann, This study provides insight to the history and culture of the people of Bali, from prehistoric times to the present. Bali is a small tropical island in the centre of the Indonesian archipelago, prone to earthquakes and devastating volcanic activity, renowned for its natural beauty. Bali has been called the island of the Gods. It is the only area of Indonesia that remains predominantly Hindu, retaining elements from a rich cultural tradition when Indian influences penetrated the island over a thousand years ago. At the same time the Balinese have shown remarkable ability to blend the old with the new. After a description of the island's geography, the book describes the history of the Balinese people, from the earliest traces of human habitation, through the development of its ancient civilization, the influences of Tantric Buddhism and Hinduism, the subjugation of Bali by the Javanese empire, and the subsequent autonomy of the eight Balinese kingdoms for several centuries until the arrival of the Dutch during the first half of the nineteenth century. At this time the Balinese had a commercial and political power in south-east Asia out of all proportion to the size of their population. Separate chapters are then devoted to describing the social order, economy, religion and rituals, myth and the performing arts, and the indigenous medical system with special reference to the cosmic power and magic that it simultaneously life-destroying and life-giving. The book concludes with a history of Bali in the twentieth century, describing its enforced incorporation in the Dutch empire, its conquest by the Japanese, its liberation by the British and Australians, and in the post-war era its integration into the Indonesian nation-state. The authors...



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