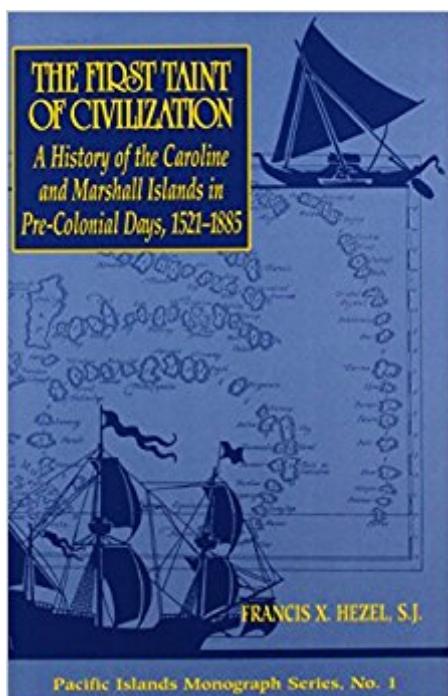


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First Taint Of Civilization: A History Of The Caroline And Marshall



Synopsis

Hezel writes clearly and with erudition and commands an impressive body of information. His book is a tour de force.... Not only will it be read eagerly by Pacific scholars, but it should find a wide audience among well-educated Micronesians hungry for greater understanding of how their islands have become ensnared in world geopolitics. -- Ethnohistory

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Customer Reviews

"Hezel writes clearly and with erudition and commands an impressive body of information. His book is a tour de force...." -- Ethnohistory

Francis X. Hezel, S.J., is a Jesuit priest who has lived and worked in Micronesia for forty-five years. He founded and directed the Micronesian Seminar, a church-sponsored research institute that engaged in a broad public education program for the islands. He is the author of several books on the region's history and culture, including *The First Taint of Civilization*, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, and *The New Shape of Old Island Cultures*. His articles and videos and other products of the Micronesian Seminar can be viewed on-line at the Micronesian Seminar website: www.micsem.org.

Father Francis X. Hezel is a fine historian, meticulous in research and perceptive in drawing conclusions. He is also a wonderful writer. Anyone who is interested in the colorful history of the

Caroline Islands should start with this book, and then move on to his others. Much of Hezel's research can be freely read online, via the Micronesia Seminar website.

Fran Hezel is a Jesuit Priest and life-long resident of Micronesia, especially Chuuk and Pohnpei States. He is a true renaissance man. Buy/read anything he edits or authors!

Great reference for any scholarly work on the Caroline Islands

A fine piece of work and research. The book came from the University of Hawaii Press and is well-documented and the presentation of the book is excellent. Father Hezel, the author, is highly recognized as a religious leader in the area, and respected for his knowledge and working with the various island cultures. This is the book that you need to study to understand what happened, during the pre-colonial days, before Germany, Spain, Japan and America added their influences. As an example, families living side-by-side in villages will have names like Smith, Salas, Weilbacher, and Mori, and most will be able to trace their ancestry back to a distant relative, who intermarried into the family. Enjoyed the many maps. A good book for research but also for general interest about the islands and the early developments.

Micronesia contrary to common beliefs was not discovered as it was always settled by the people who call it home. In any case, whether by accident or by design, the region served as host to many colonial administrations (Spanish, Germany, Japan and the United States). This book is an excellent source for those people intending to understand the history of the region through the eyes of foreigners. This book reviewed all existing documents that relate to that era, from church documents to ship logs and other communication between the colonial home countries and people in the field. It is rich, but it is not a complete history of the place as people from the region are excluded from its pages, except in instances when they were described by the writers as evidenced by written records. Any student of history, especially those studying the region, this book is a must, but it must be read knowing that it is simply a history of those who came, saw, recorded and returned home.

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