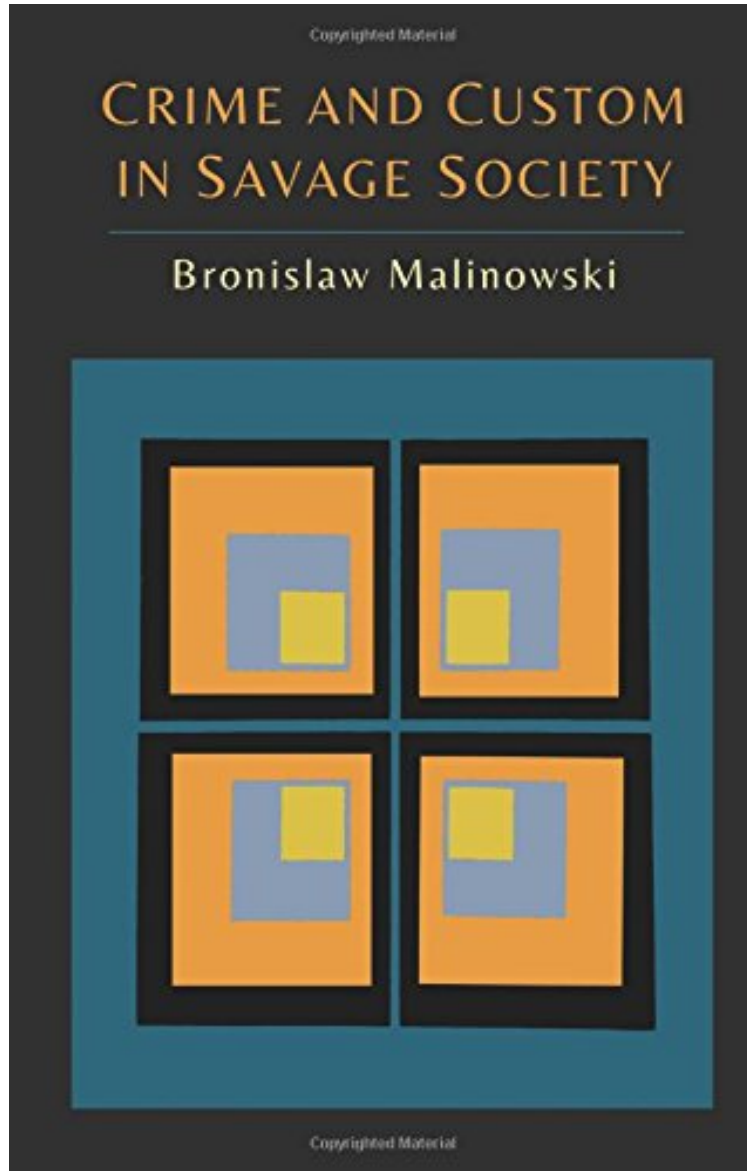




Crime and Custom in Savage Society

Bronislaw Malinowski

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#2113011 in Books Malinowski Bronislaw 2014-08-04 2014-08-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.40 x .37 x 6.00l, .53 #File Name: 161427682X148 pagesCrime and Custom in Savage Society | File size: 27.Mb

Bronislaw Malinowski : Crime and Custom in Savage Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crime and Custom in Savage Society:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. How does "law" work among the natives in Papua New Guinea?By Klaus StiefelThis is a clever book. I am not a professional anthropologist, but I have still profited from reading it. A good piece of science with good observations and intelligent conclusions ages well. Written in the 1920s and based on

observations Malinowski has made during WW I in Papua New Guinea, "Crime and Custom in Savage Society" deals with "law" in traditional society. Malinowski is fighting the view that prevailed among anthropologists at that time, which was that people in traditional societies follow the clan rules in a quasi instinctive manner, unable to diverge from the rules. He disagrees and makes his point on the basis of a number of observations that he made while on the Trobriand islands. The islanders did not at all slavishly adhere to the rules of tribal culture. Instead, sometimes they strove to circumvent the laws just as western businessmen sometimes try to evade tax law. The rules are what differs between their societies and ours, and the amount of codification of these rules, but not basic human psychology towards "the law". A multitude of human behaviors in the face of rules and regulations of different types exists in Europe and in Papua New Guinea. I find the conclusions both highly interesting from a cultural point of view and also anti-racist: The natives on the coral islands on the other side of the world show complex human social strategies if confronted with rules and regulations just as we do. Malinowski is considered one of the first proponents of modern, scientific anthropology. I can definitely see why - he is a sharp observer and puts things intelligently in context. These skills will never go out of fashion in science.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must that debunks the myth of the savage society

By Serge Berthier This is a totally politically incorrect book. I advise anyone studying laws, and any budding politician (later on they are too spoilt to open a book) to read Malinowski's analysis of the notion of law and order in a tribal society. If a judicial system aims to provide some kind of protection and some fairness within a society, then the customs that Malinowski observed were as efficient as anything else. For years the book has been ignored and it is likely to remain so among our elite. If you start to admit that the "legal" system of a savage society has something to teach us, then you are taking the risk of being called an anarchist or a terrorist.

2014 Reprint of 1926 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. "Crime and Custom in Savage Society" represents Bronislaw Malinowski's major discussion of the relationship between law and society. Throughout his career he constructed a coherent science of anthropology, one modeled on the highest standards of practice and theory. Methodology steps forward as a core element of the refashioned anthropology, one that stipulates the manner in which anthropological data should be acquired. Malinowski's choice of law was not inevitable, but neither was it unmotivated. Anyone interested in understanding the social structure and organization of societies cannot avoid dealing with the concept of "law," even if it is to deny its presence. Law and anthropology have shown a natural affinity for one another, sharing a beneficial history of using the methods and viewpoints of one to inform and advance the other. The best lesson Malinowski provides us with comes in the last paragraphs of "Crime and Custom in Savage Society": "The true problem is not to study how human life submits to rules; the real problem is how the rules become adapted to life." On that question, he has left us richly inspired to continue the quest.

Now and then a book is written which cuts mercilessly through an accumulation of traditional conceptions and by the light of overlooked or misinterpreted facts and common sense shows us how absurd the orthodox ideas have really been. Such a book is this volume of Dr. Malinowski's, which brilliantly, concisely, and in non-technical language demonstrates how very wrong and indeed impossible are the currently accepted views of some of the fundamentals of savage life. (Saturday)

About the Author Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1942) was one of the most important anthropologists of the twentieth century. He was known for his ethnographic work in the Trobriand Islands, which yielded material for such classic works as *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, *Sexual Life of Savages in Northwestern Melanesia*, *Coral Gardens and Their Magic*, and *Crime and Custom in Savage Society*.