



Frank Usbeck

Ceremonial Storytelling

Ritual and Narrative in Post-9/11 US Wars

Berlin, 2019. 332 pp.
American Culture. Vol. 14

hb. ISBN 978-3-631-77145-7
CHF 81.- / €^D 69.95 / €^A 71.90 / € 65.40 / £ 54.- / US-\$ 78.95

eBook ISBN 978-3-631-78294-1
CHF 81.- / €^D 77.95 / €^A 78.50 / € 65.40 / £ 54.- / US-\$ 78.95

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New publication

US society has controversially debated civil-military relationships and war trauma since the Vietnam War. Civic activists today promote Indigenous warrior traditions as role models for non-Native veteran reintegration and health care. They particularly stress the role of ritual and narrative for civil-military negotiations of war experience and for trauma therapy. Applying a cultural-comparative lens, this book reads non-Native soldiers' and veterans' life writing from post-9/11 wars as «ceremonial storytelling.» It analyzes activist academic texts, «milblogs» written in the war zone, as well as «homecoming scenarios.» Soldiers' and veterans' interactions with civilians constitute jointly constructed, narrative civic rituals that discuss the meaning of war experience and homecoming.

CONTENTS: Activist and academic US discourse on war experience and war trauma since Vietnam • Civil-military relationships • Cultural comparison with Indigenous warrior traditions • Military life writing understood as civic war rituals • «Milblogs» • «Homecoming scenarios» for returning veterans

FRANK USBECK studied at Leipzig University and at the University of Arizona. He earned his PhD at Leipzig with a work on German «Indi-anthusiasm» in Nazi ideology (2010). His research interests focus on Native American studies, cultural and media history, military history, nationalism, and museum studies.



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