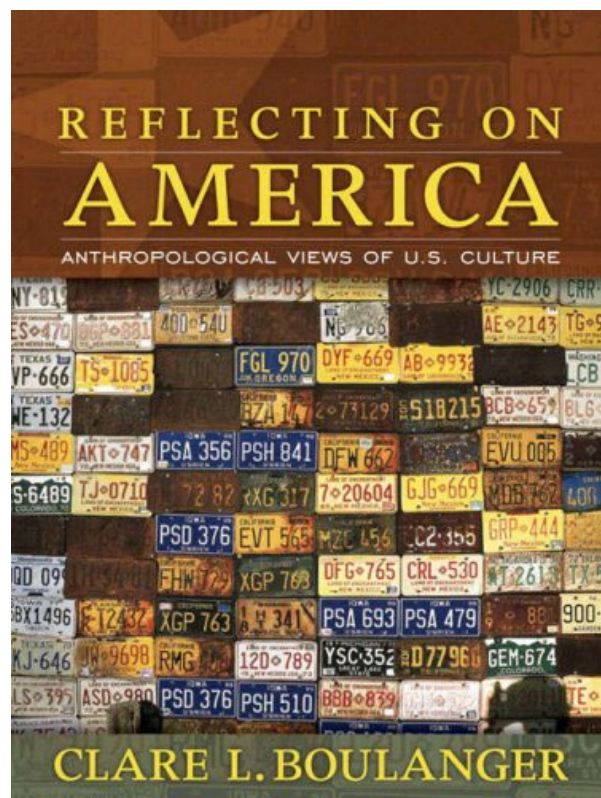
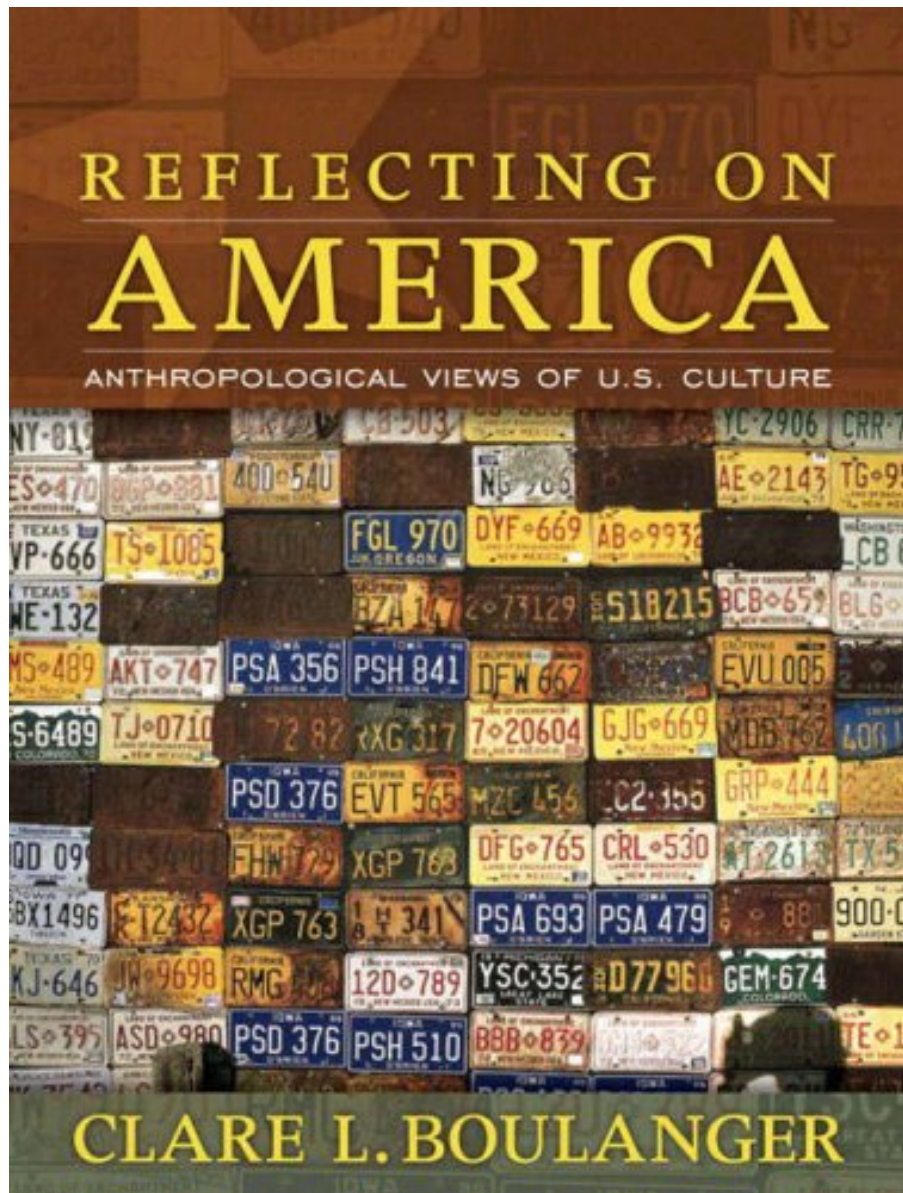


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ANTHROPOLOGICAL VIEWS OF U.S.
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Reflecting on America: Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture

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In the spirit of Horace Miner, this thought-provoking, yet accessible, anthology of articles casts mainstream U.S.A. in the role of the "other."

This anthology is primarily composed of articles written by American anthropologists on American mainstream culture, and addresses traditional ethnographic categories covered by anthropologists—myth and ritual, economy and power, language and ideology. In addition, it examines how “U.S. culture” emerges from and shapes the cultures of our component diverse populations.

Highlights of the First Edition:

- The articles are specially geared toward a scholarly audience, with several contributors having authored popular textbooks and/or articles that have enjoyed wide distribution.
- Each article is preceded by an introduction and short biography of the author to provide context..
- Each article is followed by an exercise or set of questions that encourages participation.
- The anthology covers topics such as evangelical religions, inner-city poverty, the influence of corporations on our lives, stock convictions about U.S. history and ideology, and more!

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In the spirit of Horace Miner, this thought-provoking yet accessible collection of articles (primarily written by American anthropologists on American mainstream culture) casts mainstream USA in the role of the "Other".

It address traditional ethnographic categories covered by anthropologists—myth and ritual, economy and power, language and ideology-with theoretically meaty articles, geared toward an undergraduate audience.

The authors, whether or not their subject matter is ephemeral, arrive at enduring conclusions so that the anthology has staying power; even though there are those who would state that the U.S. is too diverse to have any one culture. (It acknowledges diversity; while stressing how something that can reasonably be called "U.S. culture" emerges from and shapes the cultures of our component populations.)

In addition, the collection is headed by a classic short piece, modeled after Horace Miner's "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema."

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An excellent and entertaining collection of essays on American Culture

By William O. Beeman

Anthropologist Clare Boulanger has compiled an excellent collection of essays on contemporary American culture. The authors are among the best students of various aspects of American life, and are by and large theoretical leaders in the field. There is a particular emphasis on symbolism, language and myth--all things that most Americans don't believe impinges on their daily lives. I could have wished for an article on advertising (Richard Wilk's article comes close) and sports, but here is Mickey Mouse, Star Trek, Civil War reenactors, gun culture, and lots of quirks of the "Nacirema" culture. Because the publisher hasn't provided the table of contents, I do so here. This book will be fascinating reading for anyone who loves America, and will be especially useful in the classroom. I am the Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Minnesota, and this book has been highly successful at our university. I recommend it most enthusiastically. I'm sorry for one earlier review by someone who seems to believe that we shouldn't be studying religion and guns, but can we deny that these are topics that any serious student of the United States must take very seriously.

1. Introduction: we have met the Nacirema, and they are Us(ans) (Clare L. Boulanger)
2. Usans: "The Real People" confront globalization

MYTH AND RITUAL

1. A pilgrimage to the past: Civil War reenactors at Gettysburg (Matthew H. Amster)
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