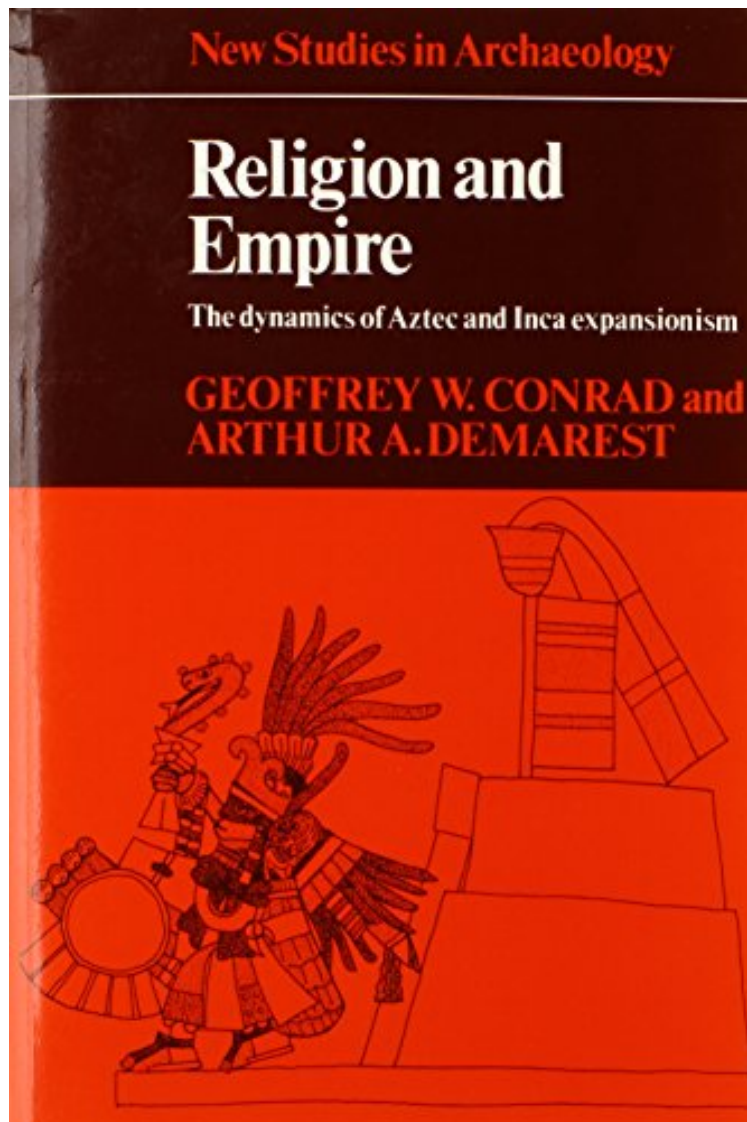


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## Religion and Empire: The Dynamics of Aztec and Inca Expansionism (New Studies in Archaeology)

*Geoffrey W. Conrad, Arthur A. Demarest*  
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**Geoffrey W. Conrad, Arthur A. Demarest : Religion and Empire: The Dynamics of Aztec and Inca Expansionism (New Studies in Archaeology)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Religion and Empire: The Dynamics of Aztec and Inca Expansionism (New Studies in Archaeology):

4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very detailed. By Michael Valdivielso The book really gets into the nuts and bolts of the empires, showing you how ideas could give birth to and help expand the two cultures. But it also shows how the same ideas could hinder and even start to destroy the empires later in their existence. Yet it is not hard to read and even delightful at some points. They answer a lot of questions I had about the Aztec and Inca, making sure to support everything they say with lots of details. A must of any history library. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, well thoughtout arguments. By M. Hickman I read this book as part of a research project into the rise and fall of the Mexica, or Aztec. This book offered an interesting view of the Aztec, as a warfaring society which was propelled by a religious zeal that got out of hand and eventually caused the destabilization of a great empire. While I happen to disagree with certain arguments in this book they are all well justified with valid arguments. This field is constantly changing and is full of writers who don't have the background or the backing for their arguments, this is not one of them. Conrad and Demerest use fresh, compelling, and well thoughtout arguments to make an interesting point. If researching the Inca and Aztec this is a must read to achieve a good view of these two expansionist empires. 6 of 11 people found the following review helpful. This book is excellent. By A Customer It explains how modern/western thought fails when applied to the cultures of the Aztecs and Incas. This book is good for beginning students for the narrative is easy to follow. However, it is outstanding for the more advanced scholar. This book would make a great companion book to broader studies of these two cultures. The authors criticise modern archaeology for its dogmatic unbending views. The authors also take modern political theory and apply it to these ancient cultures. What happens is that it falls apart. Marx, Hegel, et al have met their match against these ancient ones. What a great departure from the faulty theories of socialism communism.

Religion and Empire is an innovative and provocative study of the two largest states of the Precolumbian Americas, the Aztec and Inca Empires. By examining the causes of the formation and expansion of these two empires, the authors identify similar patterns and processes underlying their rise and decline. They demonstrate that in both examples among the critical elements in the transition from marginal people to imperial power to disintegrating society were changes in traditional religion, including the elaboration of Aztec human sacrifice and Inca worship of the corpses of their kings. The authors show that the complex interaction between such ideological shifts and political and economic factors generated the spectacular historical trajectories of these Pre-Colombian empires.

'... compulsive reading, innovative and provoking.' New Scientist