

Weeds, Roads, and God: A Half-Century of Culture Change among the Philippine Ga'dang

Ben J. Wallace

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Anthropology has a prominent history among the hill peoples of the Philippines, as chronicled by the discipline's pioneers who conducted research in Luzon, the largest archipelago in the Philippines and home to minority indigenous tribes, including the Ga'dang. In Weeds, Roads, and God, seasoned ethnographer Ben Wallace offers readers a blend of empirical and interpretive data from his original fieldwork among the Ga'dang in the mid-sixties and his follow-up study nearly a half-century later. With considerable authority and insight, Wallace documents this people's remarkable adaptation and response to environmental, social, economic, and spiritual change over a period of almost fifty years—something few ethnographers have accomplished. For Wallace and his readers, this restudy yields a sound and compelling understanding of culture change. Ideal as a supplement in introductory courses as well as courses on Southeast Asia, field methods, and culture change, modernization, and globalization, such an appealing comparative work sheds light on challenges, traditions, and trends experienced by both the ethnographer and the members of the Philippine community he studied.



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