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Technomad: Global Raving Countercultures (Studies In Popular Music)



Synopsis

A cultural history of global electronic dance music countercultures, Technomad charts a course through an emerging network of techno-tribes, exploring their pleasure principles and cultural politics. Documenting sound systems, secret sonic societies, intentional parties, revitalisation movements and counter-colonial interventions, Technomad illustrates how the dance party has been harnessed for transgressive and progressive ends. Using extensive ethnographic, netographic and documentary research, the book covers local sites and global scenes: e.g. Spiral Tribe, teknivals, psytrance, Burning Man, Reclaim the Streets, Earthdream. This cultural history will interest students of cultural, performance, music, media, and new social movement studies, along with enthusiasts of dance culture and popular politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this book, cultural anthropologist Graham St John documents the emergence and implications of global electronic dance music countercultures. Based on unique ethnographic, netographic and documentary material, St John discusses Electronic Dance Music (EDM) scenes in its diverse global, local and glocal contexts. He documents music scenes illustrating nine interrelated modes of resistance; Dionysian, outlaw, exile, avant, spiritual, reclaiming, safety, reactionary and activist. Throughout the book, St John gets into themes and scenes in detail like the "protestival;" the role of EDM in carnivals of resistance like "reclaim the streets"; the role of EDM techno-activists in

counter-colonial actions in Australia; the history of EDM at Burning Man in the U.S.; as well as the techno-punk crossover in Sydney. There is also a chapter on psytrance and the technocult. Moreover, St John chronicles the UK sound system exodus - especially with Spiral Tribe's move to the continent and the teknival emergence in Europe and North America. St John's "Technomad" is an outstanding theoretical and empirical contribution to the emerging field of Electronic Dance Music studies. St John offers ground breaking and complex theoretical discussions on resistance, counterculture, music/media studies and globalization. Written in an absolutely mesmerizing style, "Technomad" offers invaluable insider accounts and documents crucial events in EDM history. This book is already an all time classic, and indispensable to anyone interested in the diversity of EDM practices and intentions, and its multiple impacts on contemporary global cultural politics.

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