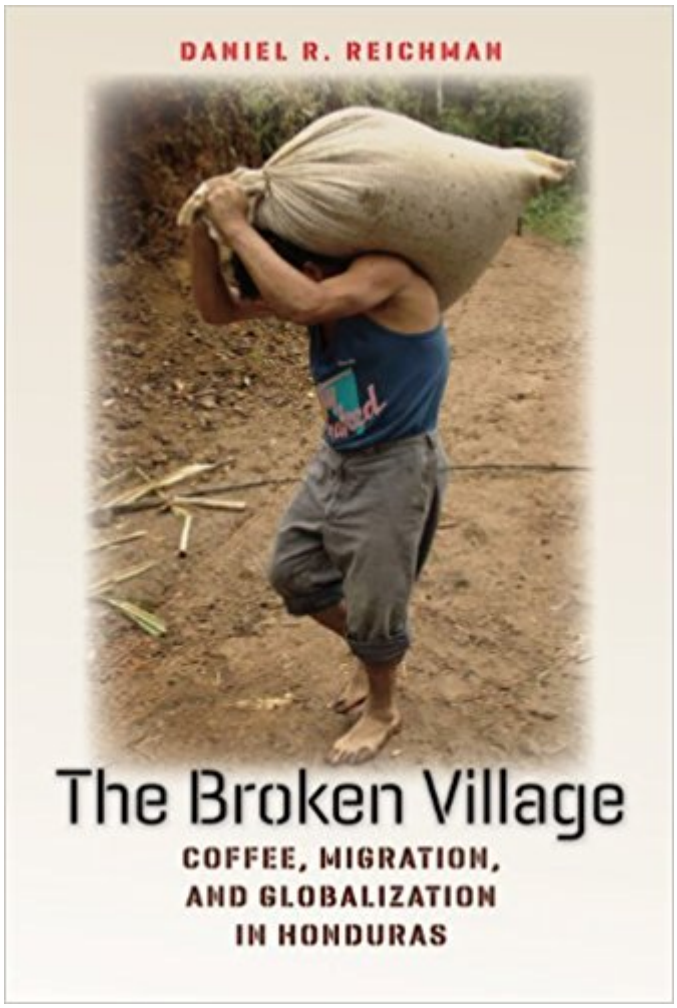
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The Broken Village: Coffee, Migration, And Globalization In Honduras (Expertise: Cultures And Technologies Of Knowledge)



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Synopsis

In The Broken Village, Daniel R. Reichman tells the story of a remote village in Honduras that transformed almost overnight from a sleepy coffee-growing community to a hotbed of undocumented migration to and from the United States. The small village-called here by the pseudonym La Quebrada-was once home to a thriving coffee economy. Recently, it has become dependent on migrants working in distant places like Long Island and South Dakota, who live in ways that most Honduran townspeople struggle to comprehend or explain. Reichman explores how the new "migration economy" has upended cultural ideas of success and failure, family dynamics, and local politics.During his time in La Quebrada, Reichman focused on three different strategies for social reform-a fledgling coffee cooperative that sought to raise farmer incomes and establish principles of fairness and justice through consumer activism; religious campaigns for personal morality that were intended to counter the corrosive effects of migration; and local discourses about migrant "greed" that labeled migrants as the cause of social crisis, rather than its victims. All three phenomena had one common trait: They were settings in which people presented moral visions of social welfare in response to a perceived moment of crisis. The Broken Village integrates sacred and secular ideas of morality, legal and cultural notions of justice, to explore how different groups define social progress.

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book for school as it was part of the course syllabus, however I thoroughly enjoyed it. The book vividly paints the picture of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“La Quebrada,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• a pseudonym used to mark a rural Honduran town whose crippled coffee economy led to a dependence on labor migration to the United States. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in Honduras and supplemental interviews with migrants and key informants in the United States, Reichman immerses the reader in the issues that face migrants, their families, and the community as a whole. Throughout the book, he follows the experiences of individuals in La Quebrada, expertly situating these unique personal accounts into a theoretical context that illustrates the sociological foundation of life in a town both plagued by and dependent on emigration. In an excellent use of the sociological imagination, the author uses ethnographic methods and in-depth personal interviews to place the unique migration experiences of subjects within the macro-level forces of market liberalization and globalization that push and pull people across borders and away from their families.It’s a very riveting read and definitely an interesting discussion on Free Trade products. I would recommend to anyone, even those who are not going into anthropologic studies.

Interesting, eye-witness accounts of the complexities behind migration in Honduras. The author also attempts to link migration to other complex systems such as the coffee trade and more boradly, the capitalist system, which is also interesting and useful, but at times felt a bit disjointed. Overall, all pretty good read.

A good read

Fascinating read, it really helped me gain a better understanding about the underlying changes in global policies that have led to the currently immigration patterns in the world today.

It is not easy finding good case studies for college undergraduates these days. Too much of what anthropologists and other academics produce is theoretically opaque, insignificant or, if

itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s good, too long and detailed for one to two weeks of reading assignments. So I am overjoyed to find Daniel ReichmanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“three-ferÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• that can be used to launch discussions of peasant agriculture and fair trade, the evangelical Protestant boom in 3rd World countries, and migration to wealthy countries for work.At 177 pages of text, The Broken Village is a model of economy. The author is even good at sketching the personalities of some of his key informants in the pseudonymous coffee-growing village of La Quebrada, Honduras. The contrast between the coffee economy and the migrant economy, and what the two have in common, is enlightening. Anyone who needs an introduction to Honduras or why so many Hondurans want to come to the US will also find The Broken Village enlightening. Interestingly, while some migrants are economically desperate, many are not. Fellow anthropologists and sociologists, letÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s publish more books like this.

Not the book I was expecting because the author deals with coffee, immigration, religion from a sociological and anthropological level. Although I was looking for for aspects of coffee history. I learn a great deal on the immigration crisis in the United States and especially how the people of Honduras fit in. Not an easy read but a worthwhile one.

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