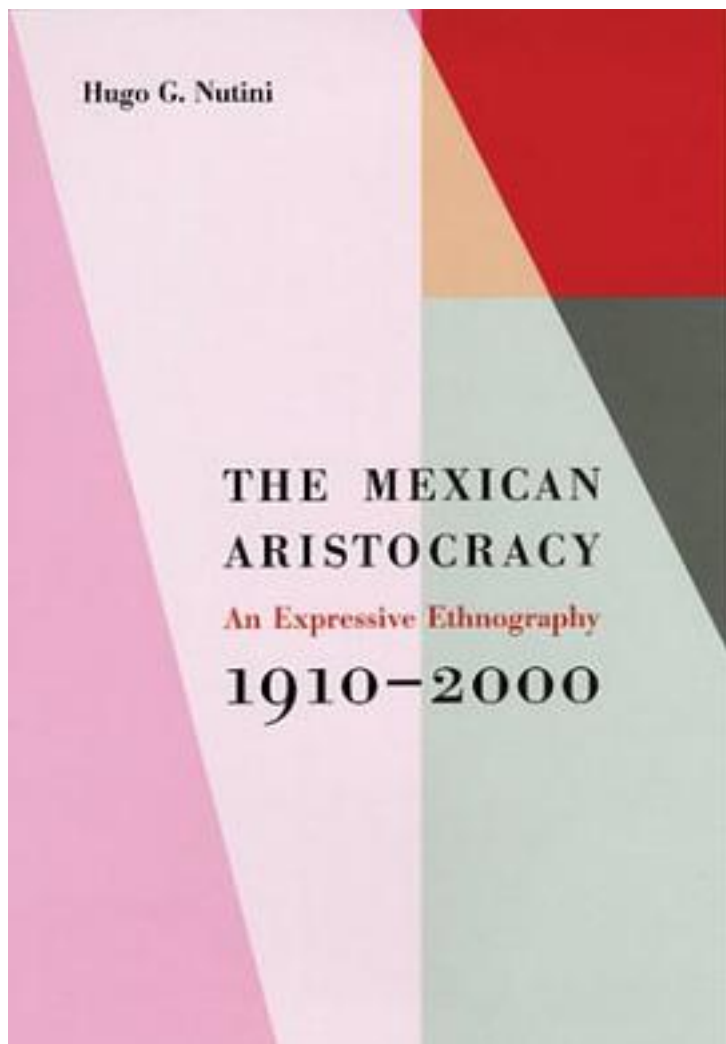


The Mexican Aristocracy



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The Mexican aristocracy today is simultaneously an anachronism and a testimony to the persistence of social institutions. Shut out from political power by the democratisation movements of the twentieth century, stripped of the basis of its great wealth by land reforms in the 1930s, the aristocracy nonetheless maintains a strong sense of group identity through the deeply held belief that their ancestors were the architects and rulers of Mexico for nearly four hundred years. This expressive ethnography describes the transformation of the Mexican aristocracy from the onset of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, when the aristocracy was unquestionably Mexico's highest-ranking social class, until the end of the twentieth century, when it had almost ceased to function as a superordinate social group. Drawing on extensive interviews with group members, Nutini maps out the expressive aspects of aristocratic culture in such areas as perceptions of class and race, city and country living, education and professional occupations, political participation, religion, kinship, marriage and divorce, and social ranking. His findings explain why social elites persist even when they have lost their status as ruling and political classes and also illuminate the relationship between the aristocracy and Mexico's new political and economic plutocracy.

作者介绍:

Hugo Nutini received his PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1962. He is a sociocultural anthropologist interested in social structure, religion, social stratification, sociocultural change, and the history of anthropology.

He is concerned with explanation and ontological and epistemological foundations of anthropology. He has worked mainly in Tlaxcala, Mexico, but has fieldwork experience in several Latin American countries.

He is presently engaged in a study of the Mexican aristocracy and haute bourgeoisie, and stratification and mobility in two middle-size Mexican cities.

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