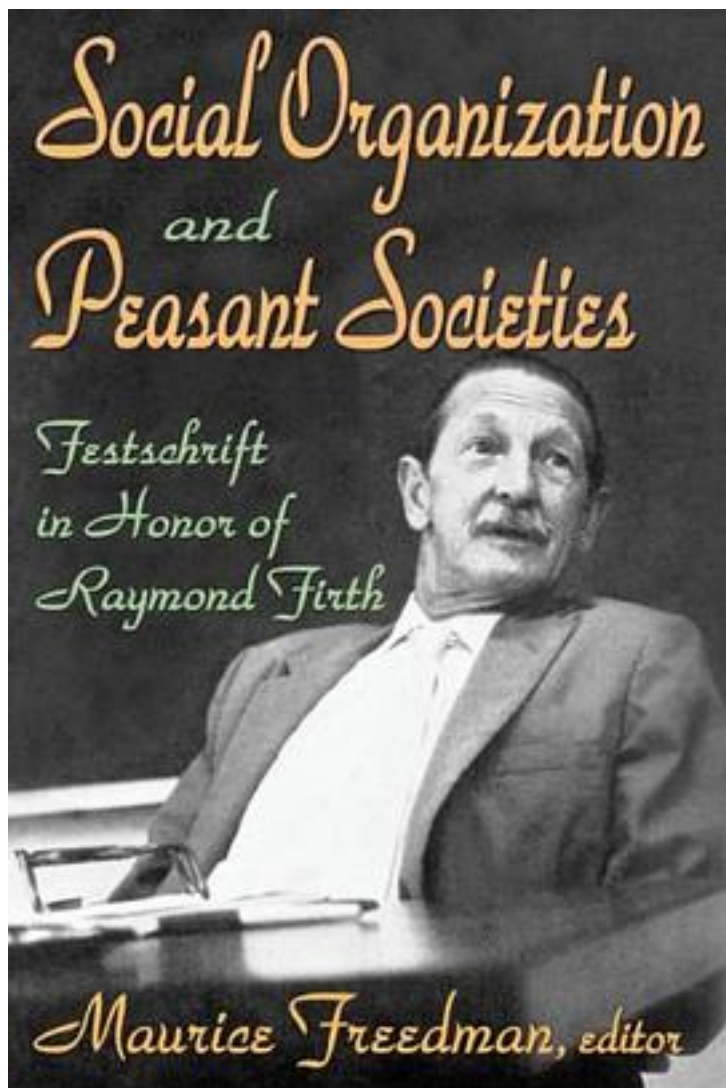


# Social Organization and Peasant Societies



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The essays included in *Social Organization and Peasant Societies* were written in honor of the man who taught their authors. Each entry is about different problems within the general field of "social organization." They were composed in many styles; and deal ethnographically with a heterogeneous collection of peoples and countries. Together they illustrate an important aspect of Firth's influence as a teacher: the range of his interests and his success in promoting social anthropological research on the broadest front. The breadth and the variety in the work of his students reflect Firth's own catholicity. From economics he reached into every corner of the field covered by social anthropology, and many of his interests can be traced in these essays on themes in kinship and marriage (by Baric, Benedict, Kaberry, and Leach) and on religious subjects (by Freedman, Morris, and Stanner). Still more detail the study of modern social change (by Little and Mayer). There is even one on art (by Forge). Three are devoted to subjects in economic anthropology (by Belshaw, Swift, and Ward). On all of these varied and complex topics Raymond Firth has written extensively and taught untiringly. Many of the contributors to his festschrift are themselves leading anthropologists. Raymond Firth's importance in the history of social anthropology is undisputed. He came into the profession when it was small and unformed, when it existed only in the tiny groups of people around Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown. He urged it on, by intellectual leadership, by careful organization, and by devoted service. He was one of a small band of scholars; he created a large school. He inherited an esoteric seminar from Malinowski; he turned it into a great class where, over the years, hundreds of students marveled at his skill and learned their craft as analysts and field workers.

作者介绍:

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