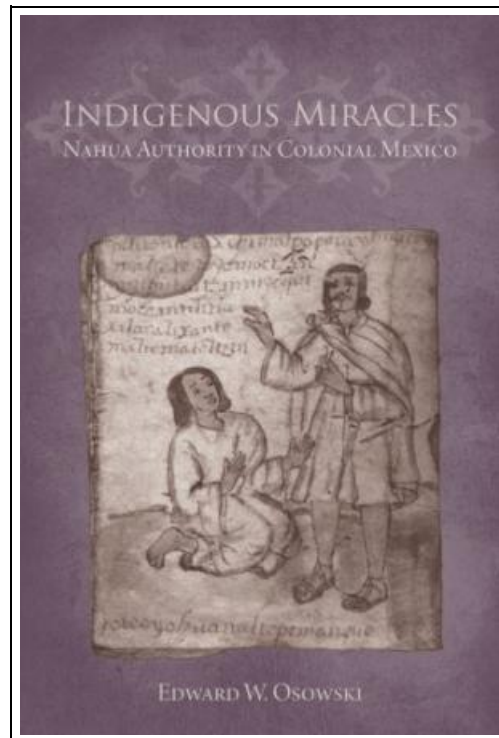


Indigenous Miracles: Nahua Authority in Colonial Mexico



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Reviews

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(Ezra Bergstrom)

INDIGENOUS MIRACLES: NAHUA AUTHORITY IN COLONIAL MEXICO



University of Arizona Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Indigenous Miracles: Nahua Authority in Colonial Mexico, Edward W. Osowski, While King Carlos I of Spain struggled to suppress the Protestant Reformation in the Old World, the Spanish turned to New Spain to promote the Catholic cause, unimpeded by the presence of the false Old World religions. To this end, Osowski writes, the Spanish saw indigenous people as necessary protagonists in the anticipated triumph of the faith. As the conversion of the indigenous people of Mexico proceeded in earnest, Catholic ritual became the medium through which indigenous leaders and Spaniards negotiated colonial hegemony. "Indigenous Miracles" is about how the Nahua elite of central Mexico secured political legitimacy through the administration of public rituals centered on miraculous images of Christ the King. Osowski argues that these images were adopted as community symbols and furthermore allowed Nahua leaders to represent their own kingship, protecting their claims to legitimacy. This legitimacy allowed them to act collectively to prevent the loss of many aspects of their culture. Osowski demonstrates how a shared religion admitted the possibility of indigenous agency and new ethnic identities. Consulting both Nahuatl and Spanish sources, Osowski strives to fill a gap in the history of the Nahuas from 1760 to 1810, a momentous time when previously sanctioned religious practices were condemned by the viceroys and archbishops of the Bourbon royal dynasty. His approach synthesizes ethnohistory and institutional history to create a fascinating account of how and why the Nahuas protected the practices and symbols they had appropriated under Hapsburg rule. Ultimately, Osowski s account contributes to our understanding of the ways in which indigenous agency was negotiated in colonial Mexico."



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