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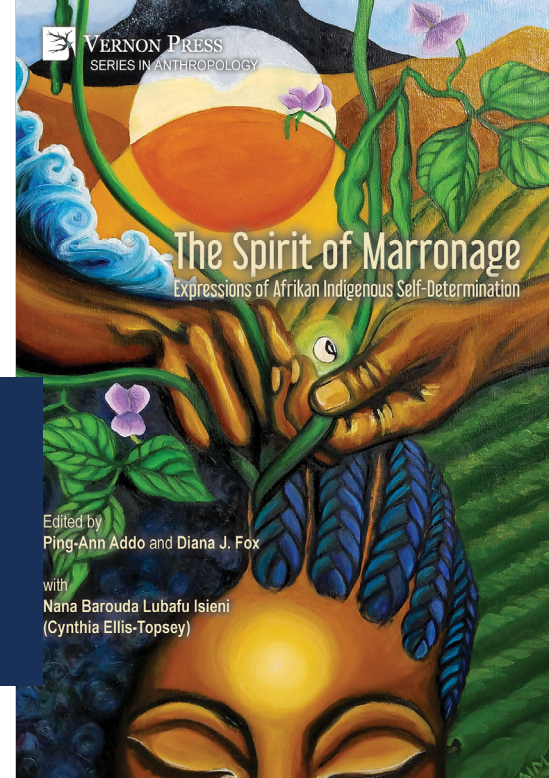
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Edited by Ping-Ann Addo, Diana J. Fox, Nana Barouda
Lubafu Isieni (Cynthia Ellis-Topsey)

The Spirit of Marronage

Expressions of Afrikan Indigenous Self-Determination

SERIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY



About the editors

Ping-Ann Addo is a collaborative ethnographer and Associate Professor of Anthropology at University of Massachusetts Boston. Her work focuses on material culture in Pacific and Caribbean communities, examines women's agency, nation-building, and (im)migrant identity, and supports Indigenous survivance and reclamation. She is the author of two books, a story consultant on a film, and a trained museum educator and researcher.

Diana J. Fox is Professor of Anthropology at Bridgewater State University. She is a cultural anthropologist, decolonial feminist scholar-activist, and documentary film producer. She works to develop collaborative partnerships with social movement actors globally around women's and Indigenous rights and liberatory praxis. She is founding editor of the online, open-access 'Journal of International Women's Studies.'

Nana Barouda Lubafu Isieni (Cynthia Ellis-Topsey) is a Garifuna Indigenous global leader from Belize and Ambassador at Large of the Garifuna Nation. A spiritual guide and promoter of Afrikan tales, she is an activist for changing the language of economic decolonization and empowering Garifuna and other Indigenous women. Founder of the Garifuna Cassava Festival, she is a mother of 5 and grandmother of 17.

Summary

'The Spirit of Marronage: Expressions of Afrikan Indigenous Self-Determination' chronicles the rise of the United Maroon Indigenous Peoples (UMIP), a global movement rooted in the spiritual and political legacies of Afrikan-descended Indigenous communities. Interweaving scholarly discussions, critical personal narrative, poetry, visual art, and Indigenous curricula, the book explores sovereignty through land-based relations, communal governance, and sacred practices. It documents pivotal Maroon gatherings and outlines UMIP's six founding pillars: Kpaale (Diasporic Citizenship and Spirituality), Mbongi (Learning Together), Uhuru (Freedom and Reparations), Gayap (Working for Common Cause), Ujima (Collective Responsibility), and Livity (Living Maroon Values). Serving as both an archive for Maroons and a guide for Indigenous Peoples reclaiming culture, it calls for shifts in academic engagement toward authentic allyship—centering Indigenous knowledges to transform relationships from transactional to reciprocal, and analyses from removed to restorative. A vital resource for educators, researchers, and activists pursuing ecological and social justice.

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