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A Future For Ia: Randy Borman And CofÃin Environmental Politics



Synopsis

Blending ethnography with a fascinating personal story, *A Future for Ia* is an account of a political movement that arose in the early 1990s in response to decades of attacks on the lands and peoples of eastern Ecuador, one of the world's most culturally and biologically diverse places. After generations of ruin at the hands of colonizing farmers, transnational oil companies, and Colombian armed factions, the indigenous Cofãjn people and their rain forest territory faced imminent jeopardy. In a surprising turn of events, the Cofãjn chose Randy Borman, a man of Euro-American descent, to lead their efforts to overcome the crisis that confronted them. Drawing on three years of ethnographic research, *A Future for Ia* begins by tracing the contours of Cofãjn society and Borman's place within it. Borman, a blue-eyed, white-skinned child of North American missionary-linguists, was raised in a Cofãjn community and gradually came to share the identity of his adoptive nation. He became a global media phenomenon and forged creative partnerships between Cofãjn communities, conservationist organizations, Western scientists, and the Ecuadorian state. The result was a collective mobilization that transformed the Cofãjn nation in unprecedented ways, providing them with political power, scientific expertise, and a new role as ambitious caretakers of more than one million acres of forest. Challenging simplistic notions of identity, indigeneity, and inevitable ecological destruction, *A Future for Ia* charts an inspiring course for environmental politics in the twenty-first century.

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Customer Reviews

Great for an introductory anthropology course

Well written and fascinating story about the struggle to preserve an endangered culture.

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