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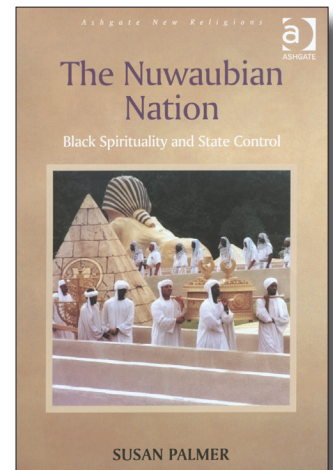


The Nuwaubian Nation

Black Spirituality and State Control

Susan Palmer, Dawson College and Concordia University

Ashgate New Religions



The Nuwaubian Nation takes the reader on a journey into an African-American spiritual movement. The United Nuwaubian Nation has changed shape since its inception in the 1970s, transforming from a Black Hebrew mystery school into a Muslim utopian community in Brooklyn, NY; from an Egyptian theme park into an Amerindian reserve in rural Georgia. This book follows the extraordinary career of Dwight York, also known as Malachi Z. York, who in his teens started out in a New York street gang, but converted to Islam in prison. Emerging as a Black messiah, York proceeded to break the Paleman's "spell of Kingu" and to guide his people through a series of racial/religious identities that demanded dramatic changes in costume, gender roles and lifestyle. York's "Blackosophy" is analyzed as a new expression of that ancient mystical worldview, Gnosticism.

Referring to theories in the sociology of deviance and media studies, the author tracks the escalating hostilities against the group that climaxed in a Waco-style FBI raid on the Nuwaubian "compound" in 2002. In the ensuing legal process, we witness York's dramatic reversals of fortune; he is now serving a 135-year sentence as his lawyer, a member of the Black Panther Party, prepares to take his case to the Supreme Court.

This book presents fresh and important insights into racist spirituality and the social control of unconventional religions in America.

Includes 7 figures

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Contents:

Preface: 'overstanding' the Nuwaubians; 'Don't believe me, check it out for yourself!';
Holy madness, crazy wisdom;
The Ansaaru Allah community;
Tama Re and the FBI raid on a 'sovereign nation';
Dr. York's trials;
Regressing into the millennium;
Black Messiahs in America: religious leaders or racketeers?;
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About the Author:

Susan Palmer is the author of eight books on New Religious Movements, including *Moon Sisters*, *Krishna Mother*, *Rajneesh Lovers: Women's Roles in New Religions* (1994) and *Aliens Adored: Rael's UFO Religion* (2004). She teaches at Dawson College and Concordia University in their Religious Studies department.

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