



Essential Substances (Hardback)

By Richard Rudgley

Arktos Media, United Kingdom, 2014. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Richard Rudgley's first book, *Essential Substances*, was the winner of the British Museum Prometheus Award and hailed as a masterpiece by the Director of Harvard Botanical Museum, the world's leading authority on hallucinogenic plants. It is still one of the few books to have explored the role of drugs in the religious, political, economic and sexual life of our species from prehistory to the present day, covering a range of cultures as diverse as the Amazonian Indians, the Scythians of the ancient world and the witches of Medieval Europe alongside inner city crack and drugs in the counterculture. It is a magical tour of the fantastic and often bizarre world of intoxicants peopled by tribesmen and mystics, statesmen and writers, housewives and yuppies. Rudgley cogently shows how the significance of these substances extends beyond simple pleasure to the economic, political, and sexual life of a community. In the process, he challenges our assumptions that deem certain intoxicants socially and legally acceptable, while others remain taboo. *Essential Substances* remains a timely, much-needed reconsideration of the roles intoxicants play in our lives...



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