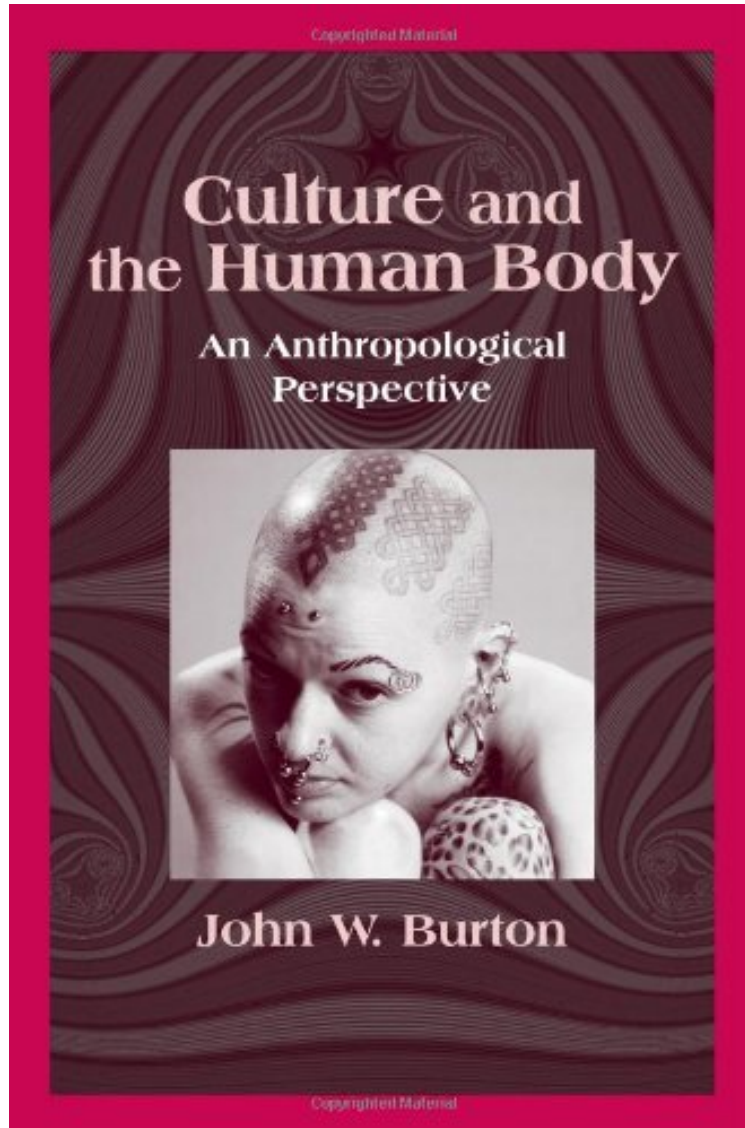


Culture and the Human Body: An Anthropological Perspective

John W. Burton

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1425089 in Books Waveland Pr Inc 2001-02-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.75 x 6.00 x .251, .45
#File Name: 157766180X129 pages | File size: 76.Mb

John W. Burton : Culture and the Human Body: An Anthropological Perspective before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culture and the Human Body: An Anthropological Perspective:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The body as a manifestation of human cultureBy Alexander M. MoirIn this highly accessible monograph, John Burton, Prof. of anthropology at Connecticut College, lays out the story of the human body as a vessel of culture.As we know, typical manifestations of human culture include language, music, customs, modes of production, and location. Burton's task herein is to draw attention to the various ways in

which the body and its functions are both defined and controlled by culture. As becomes apparent, such phenomena as bodily adornment, sexuality and even reproduction are always culturally specific. In typical fashion, Burton does not attempt to draw human universal conclusions on culture and the body, rather leaving the reader with the idea that, though human beings certainly share many common biological characteristics, it is the individuality of cultures which decides how we may define ourselves. In the end, we are left feeling, along with Burton, that even the oft-touted individualism of American society is really part of the control system of our own culture.

In the course of human prehistory and continuing to the present day, culture has played a prominent role in transforming the human form. From birth to death, the body serves as a medium and metaphor of cultural expression. This book provides a broadly comparative perspective on the many and varied ways in which the human body has been sculpted and transformed by particular cultural traditions and argues that in significant ways, the human body has transcended the laws of natural selection. To appreciate the human body is to acknowledge the various ways in which it has become a cultural artifact rather than a purely natural phenomenon. Titles of related interest by Waveland Press: Mascia-Lees, *Gender and Difference in a Globalizing World: Twenty-First Century Anthropology* (ISBN 9781577665984); Mascia-Lees-Black, *Gender and Anthropology* (ISBN 9781577660668); and Nanda, *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations*, 2E (ISBN 9781478611264).

From the PublisherTitles of related interest also from Waveland Press: Nanda, *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations* (ISBN 9781577660743).From the Inside Flap"Burton skillfully handles this panoramic literature while introducing an equally wide range of theoretical orientations on culture and the human body that is illuminating and appealing indeed." (Choice, December 2001)