



The Third Eye: Race, Cinema and Ethnographic Spectacle

By Fatimah Tobing Rony

Duke University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Third Eye: Race, Cinema and Ethnographic Spectacle, Fatimah Tobing Rony, Charting the intersection of technology and ideology, cultural production and social science, Fatimah Tobing Rony explores early-twentieth-century representations of non-Western indigenous peoples in films ranging from the documentary to the spectacular to the scientific. Turning the gaze of the ethnographic camera back onto itself, bringing the perspective of a third eye to bear on the invention of the primitive other, Rony reveals the collaboration of anthropology and popular culture in Western constructions of race, gender, nation, and empire. Her work demonstrates the significance of these constructions - and, more generally, of ethnographic cinema - for understanding issues of identity. In films as seemingly dissimilar as *Nanook of the North*, *King Kong*, and research footage of West Africans from an 1895 Paris ethnographic exposition, Rony exposes a shared fascination with - and anxiety over - race. She shows how photographic "realism" contributed to popular and scientific notions of evolution, race, and civilisation, and how, in turn, anthropology understood and critiqued its own use of photographic technology. Looking beyond negative Western images of the Other, Rony considers performance strategies that disrupt these...



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