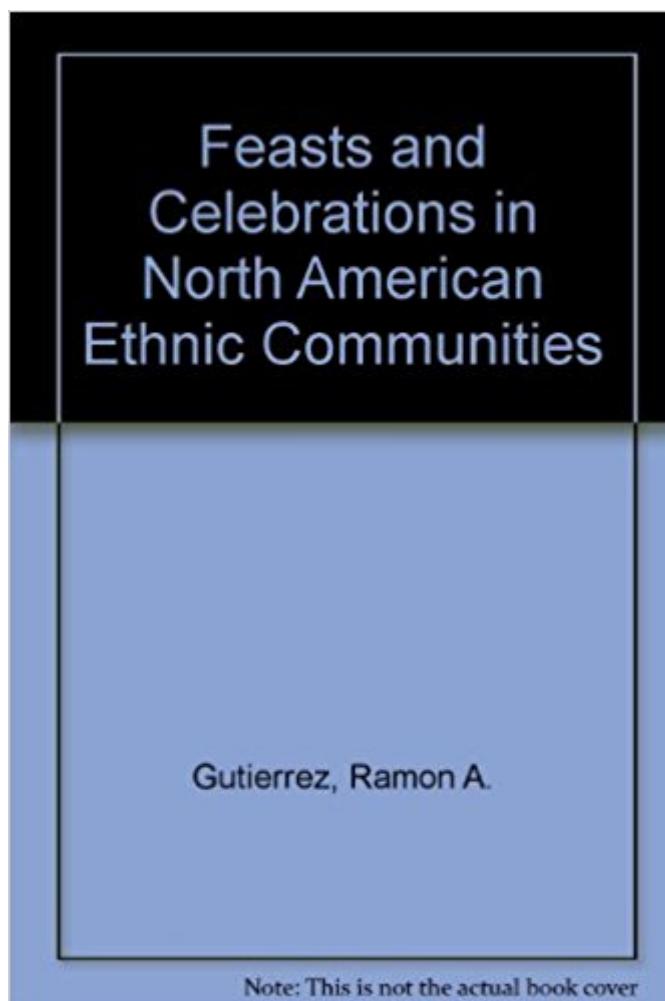


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# Feasts And Celebrations In North American Ethnic Communities



## **Synopsis**

Jazz funerals in New Orleans, Halloween parades in Greenwich Village, harvest rituals, Easter pilgrimages, and folk pageants all serve to reaffirm the cultural vitality of ethnic communities and simultaneously permit them to challenge the established order and beliefs. The twelve essays in this volume explore a range of cultural traditions, including those of African Americans, Hispanics, Filipinos, West Indians, rural whites, and contemporary urban residents and gays. Discussed are the ways in which celebrations infuse life with rituals, ceremonies, and festive events all the while bringing an essential and rich spirit to everyday existence. By considering celebrations occurring in a variety of cultural settings, we see how each event is vital to the well-being of an ethnic community as well as permitting people to reinvent and affirm their heritage. Each of the essays considers the multiple and often contradictory levels on which festivals can be viewed: celebratory events occurring on a contested boundary between secular or sacred, incorporating rituals of rebellion, resistance, and protest, often swerving between the libertine and the respectable.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 195 pages

Publisher: Univ of New Mexico Pr; 1st edition (April 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0826315933

ISBN-13: 978-0826315939

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #665,340 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Holidays #10795 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics

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"Few books offer a better picture of the richness of cultures in North America." -- Judith Friedlander, Dean, Hunter College

Ramón Gutiérrez is an award-winning historian and founding chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of California, San Diego. Geneviève Fabre is a professor of American Studies at Université Denis Diderot, Paris.

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