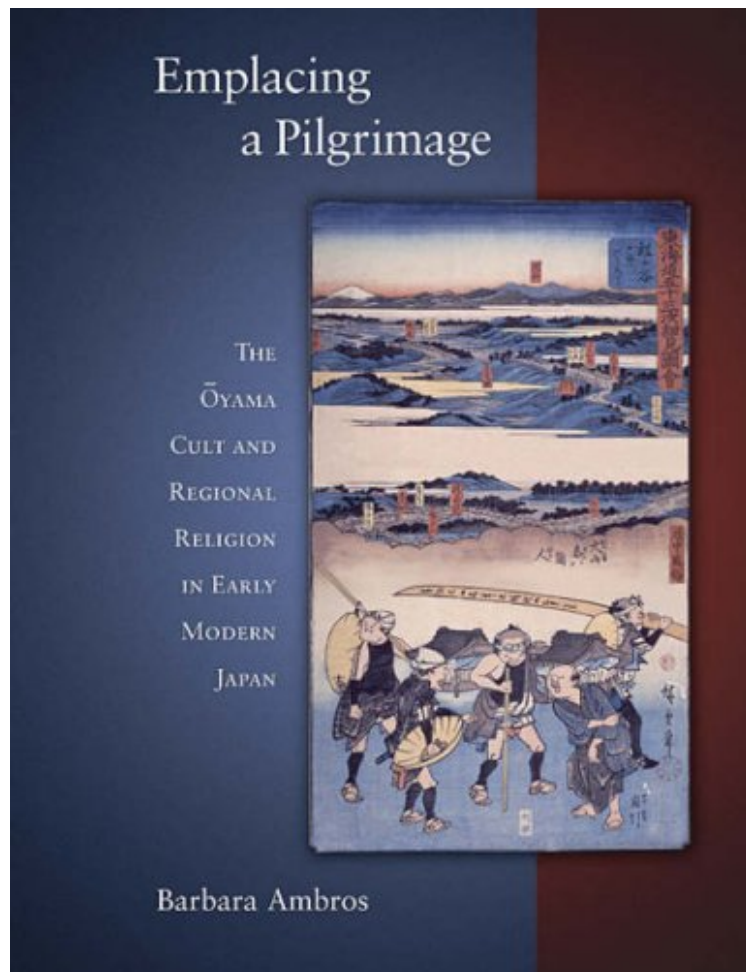


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Emplacing a Pilgrimage: The yama Cult and Regional Religion in Early Modern Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs)

Barbara Ambros

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Barbara Ambros : Emplacing a Pilgrimage: The yama Cult and Regional Religion in Early Modern Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emplacing a Pilgrimage: The yama Cult and Regional Religion in Early Modern Japan (Harvard East Asian Monographs):

Towering over the Kanto Plain, the sacred mountain oyama (literally, Big Mountain) has loomed large over the religious landscape of early modern Japan. By the Edo period (1600-1868), the revered peak had undergone a

transformation from secluded spiritual retreat to popular pilgrimage destination. Its status as a regional landmark among its devotees was boosted by its proximity to the shogunal capital and the wide appeal of its amalgamation of Buddhism, Shinto, mountain asceticism, and folk beliefs. The influence of the oyama cultthe intersecting beliefs, practices, and infrastructure associated with the sacred sitewas not lost on the ruling Tokugawa shogunate, which saw in the pilgrimage an opportunity to reinforce the communal ideals and social structures that the authorities espoused. Barbara Ambros provides a detailed narrative history of the mountain and its place in contemporary society and popular religion by focusing on the development of the oyama cult and its religious, political, and socioeconomic contexts. Richly illustrated and carefully researched, this study emphasizes the importance of site or region in considering the multifaceted nature and complex history of religious practice in Tokugawa Japan.

About the Author?Barbara Ambros is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.