

Deszendenz, politische Macht und das Verhältnis der Geschlechter auf Yap, Westkarolinen

Abstract:

This article examines the political system of Yapese society in the Western Caroline Islands as well as the relationship of gender-specific kinship and political groups in that area. Rank, class and status form the basis of the yapese „caste-system“, which is still alive today. The land-owning patrilineages and the council of chiefs are also powerful political institutions. In contrast to these male-dominated groups the matrilineages are of a very different type (considering responsibilities, locality and spirituality). This article compares these two different types of kinship groups and their way of exercising power as well as analysing gender relations in Yapese society in general.