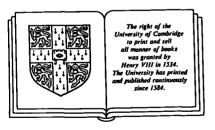
Age class systems

Social institutions and polities based on age

BERNARDO BERNARDI

Translated from the Italian by David I. Kertzer



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge
London New York New Rochelle
Melbourne Sydney

Translator's Preface Preface		<i>page</i> xi xiii
1 10		AIII
1	Characteristics of age class systems	1
	The relativity of the age concept	1
	Age grades within age class systems	2
	Rites of promotion and principles of recruitment	4
	The anthropemic value of age	7
	Physiological age and structural age	9
2	The anthropological study of age class systems	11
	The geographical distribution of age class systems	11
	Indicating some constants	14
	The anthropological approach: formulating the problem	15
	Refining the tools	17
	Field research on age class systems	19
	Comparative analysis	21
3	Legitimation and power in age class systems	24
	Stateless societies	24
	Primary polities	25
	Power in the age class system	27
	The distribution of power	28
	Military activity as one of the functions of age grades	30
	The "class in power"	31
	Ritualization in age class systems	33
	Chronology and age class systems	36
4	The choice of ethnographic models	38
	Structural criteria	38
	Functional criteria	40
,	vii	

	The models and their variables	41
	Primary and secondary models	42
	Stewart's models	43
5	The initiation model	44
	The ethnic sections of the Masai	45
	The structural formation of an age class	46
	Age grades and their functional aspects	48
	The first grade: military activity	49
	The second grade: family and economic activity	50
	The third grade: decision-making power	51
	The fourth grade: religious and ritual power	52
	Equality and inequality	53
	The leaders and individual affirmation	55
	The Arusha system	57
	The Samburu system	59
6	The initiation-transition model	62
	The social organization of the Shavante	62
	Informal age grades and institutionalized age grades	63
	The Shavante grade cycle	65
	The initiation process and class recruitment	- 66
	The "young married" grade : ritai wa	69
	The elders' grade and disengagement from class	70
	The contradictions of the Shavante system	71
7	The generational model	73
	The Oromo Boran	73
	The gada system	74
	The grades of the gada system	76
	The generational rule	79
	The patriclass – gogessa	80
	The negative consequences of the gada system	81
	The harriya system	83
	The gada system as primary polity	84
	Tradition and change among the Guji	86
	The Guji variant of the gada system	88
	The significance of the Oromo variants in comparative	-
	perspective	91
8	The residential model	94
	The Afikpo village group	95
	The Afikpo age classes at the village level	96

	The Afikpo age classes at the district level	98
	The Lagoon Peoples of the Ivory Coast	100
	The formation of age classes among the Lagoon Peoples	101
	Lagoon Peoples' village polities	104
	The age villages of the Nyakyusa	107
	Kinship and witchcraft	109
9	The regimental model	112
	The ancient Nguni	112
	Zulu initiation and conscription	115
	From military activity to folkloric function	117
10	The choreographic model	120
	The acquisition of age societies among the Mandan and Hidatsa The structure and function of the Mandan and Hidatsa age	121
	societies	123
	The Blackfoot age societies	126
	The classes and dances of the Gros Ventres	128
11	Women and age class systems	132
	The ethnographic data: the Kikuyu and Meru	132
	Parallelism and subordination	134
	Matrilineality and patrilineality	137
	The Shavante case	139
	Political control in age class systems	141
12	The ethnemic significance of the age class system	143
	The age class system and the enculturation process	144
	The value of class equality	146
	Age class systems and kinship systems	147
	Age class systems and marriage	149
	The relation between age class systems and territory	151
	Hierarchy and social stratification in age class systems	152
	The allocation of power in age class systems	154
	The individual and the age class system	156
	Relations of age class systems with the economic system	158
	The multifunctional nature of age class systems	160
13	History and changes in age class systems	162
	Historical evaluation and processes of transformation	162
	Colonial impact	163

"Unemployed warriors"	160
Global systems and alternative processes	167
The nature of age class systems	169
Glossary	172
References	174
Index	183