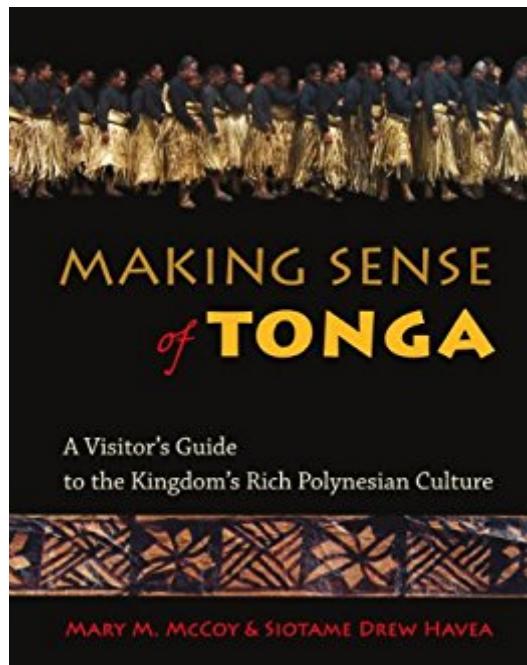


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# Making Sense Of Tonga



## **Synopsis**

This guide to the Kingdom of Tonga's rich Polynesian culture is a user-friendly description of what makes Tongan society so unique. Wonder why a Tongan won't have eye-to-eye contact? Wonder why the Tongan keeps flicking his eyebrows? Wonder what that woven mat is around the Tongan's waist? These and many more fascinating elements of what makes up day-to-day Tongan life are described with a touch of humor for easy digestibility.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Having lived and worked in Tonga for 18 months this book was recommended to me and proved invaluable. In particular asking a question the right way or you will not get the answer you want. As an Aussie I tend to ask a question that had a negative answer, for example 'Drew is not in yet is he' I expected the answer to be No but I always got yes. The first few times I entered the office expecting to find Drew but finally realising that they were correct as they agreed with Myers drew was not in. So enjoy and everything here in this book is very accurate.

If you are planning a trip to the Kingdom of Tonga, you would be wise to tuck this intriguing book into your knapsack. Unlike conventional guides that direct tourists to points of interest, "Making Sense of Tonga" is designed to help the Westerner understand the complicated and often perplexing Tongan way of life. The authors, whose gentle humor is always tempered by a deep respect for the culture, give us a fascinating picture of life in a country where one's social rank affects all interpersonal relationships, from King to commoner. Family and community take precedence over the individual. Ownership is a foreign concept and sometimes "yes" means "no". Scheduling is a meaningless exercise and rules are meant to be broken. And if that's not enough to convince you that you need this book when you travel to Tonga, maybe the sight of locals swimming with their clothes on while holding umbrellas is! And even if you never step foot in Tonga, this little book will inform and delight even the most critical of armchair travelers.

This book should be read by anyone visiting Tonga. Even though some things have changed much of what is written here will help the visitor understand the people. Tongan are gracious people who show friendliness at all times. It behoves the palangi to show respect and understanding.

This book is excellent for gaining insights into the Tongan culture for anyone who is going to visit or work there. It is an easy to read book that is packed with hints/explanations you will need so as not to offend or to be left bamboozled when there is a clash of culture. Being a 'palangis' I will certainly have to rethink my approach to how I will interact with my Tongan colleagues when I am there to deliver training. Thank you for a great book.

Everything that is said in this book, proved correct. An excellent resource for understanding the people and culture of Tonga.

Anyone traveling to Tonga should read "Making Sense of Tonga" because the culture is very different from what we are familiar with in the west. Interesting and useful knowledge of Tonga.

I think it's entertaining this authors view on the people. Times have changed and so have the Tongan people.

If you want a better understanding of the culture of Tonga this is your resource. Made my trip to Tonga so much more enjoyable. Highly recommended.

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