frontier between Spain and France on the Atlantic coast. It is concerned with boundaries in the social and symbolic sense of the word, and its purpose is to explore forms of expression of identity in a border area inhabited by what is often assumed to be a homogeneous ethnic group. For Basque nationalists, it is the ultimate obstacle to their goals of a united Basque country. This is evoked in many songs and poems of the last two centuries which hark back to a romantic and legendary past when the Basques were a free people (for example 'Orixe' 1972:195-97; 'Xalbador' in Aulestia 1981:459). In Basque, the consortium is known as Bidasoa-Txingudi Mugaz Gaindiko Partzuergoa, in French as le Consorcio Transfrontalier Bidasoa-Txingudi and in Spanish as el Consorcio Transfronterizo Bidasoa-Txingudi. The French version of the name, using the Spanish word consorcio rather than the French consortium, reflects the fact that it was set up using a Spanish legal vehicle for cooperation between local authorities. One of the first acts of the promoters of cross-frontier cooperation was to create a new name for the area. The French version of the name, using the Spanish word consorcio rather than the French consortium, reflects the fact that it was set up using a Spanish legal vehicle for cooperation between local authorities. One of the first acts of the promoters of cross-frontier cooperation was to create a new name for the area. Source: Bray, Zoe 2004 Living Boundaries: frontiers and identity in the Basque Country, Brussels: PIE Peter Lang. In Living Boundaries, Zoe Bray studies the construction of identity in Bidasoa-Txingudi, a small Basque region straddling the international frontier between France and Spain and comprised of the towns of Hendia, Irun and Hondarribia. Taking as a focal point a cross-frontier cooperation project designed to transcend national, cultural, social and political differences in a context of disappearing frontiers and attempts to promote European integration, the book analyzes the way politicians draw on 'culture' and 'identity' for popular legitimacy and the obstacles that impeded the development of a sense of common togetherness. Following the tradition of social anthropological research, the book is laced with rich ethnographic accounts tied to contemporary socio-political issues. It challenges ideas of fixed identity among people who belong to apparently homogenous groups and suggests rethinking the concept of identity in terms of a configuration of boundaries that constantly drawn, crossed and reinterpreted in the course of everyday social interaction. For this new edition, the author presents a new preface and afterword discussing the evolution of the area and of the research project since the book's original publication in 2004 and leading to the conclusion that as old boundaries disappear, human beings erect new ones, providing a rich and changing landscape of identities in this singular region.
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