

Hutterites and the Bruderhof
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The Hutterites

Bennett, John W. *Hutterian Brethren*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1967.

This sociological/anthropological study focuses specific attention on the Hutterian agricultural economy and social organization.

Ehrenpreis, Andreas. *Brotherly Community: The Highest Command of Love, 1650*.

Rifton, NY: Plough, 1978.

This book includes the writings of 17th century Hutterite Servant of the Word Ehrenpreis, who led the Hutterites during a difficult time of re-grouping after the devastation of the 30 Years War (1618-1648).

Friedmann, Robert. *Hutterite Studies*. Goshen, IN: Mennonite Historical Society, 1961.

Friedmann's important essays are the most profoundly intellectual of any of the various studies of Hutterite theology and life. The Hutterites themselves often suggest that Friedmann understood them better than any other non-Hutterite.

Friesen, John J. trans., ed. *Peter Riedemann's Hutterite Confession of Faith*. Scottsdale,

PA: Herald Press, 1999.

This is a new translation of the 1540 confession of faith to which the Hutterites still adhere.

Included is a biographical essay on Peter Riedemann.

Gross, Leonard. *The Golden Years of the Hutterites*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 1980.

This book is an in-depth study of Hutterite life and thought during the height of the "Golden Years" period -- from 1565-1578.

Gross, Paul S. *The Hutterite Way*. Saskatoon, SK: Freeman Publishing Company, 1965.

This is the only full-scale analysis of contemporary Hutterite life by a Hutterite minister. Gross was a progressive Dariusleut *Prediger* who encouraged relationships with non-Hutterites and a greater focus on education.

Hofer, Arnold M., ed. *A History of the Hutterite-Mennonites*. Freeman, SD: Hutterian

Centennial Committee, 1974.

This book is a brief review of the history and culture of those Prairieleut Hutterians who joined Mennonite churches in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Included are numerous photographs, recipes and stories.

Hofer, Arnold M., ed. *The Diaries of Joseph "Yos" Hofer*. Freeman, SD: Hutterian

Centennial Committee, 1997.

This is an important translation of a diary kept by Hutterite minister "Yos" Hofer, who was a member, at different times, of Dariusleut, Schmiedeleut and Prairieleut congregations. He exemplifies the sometimes chaotic pattern of movement across communal/non-communal Hutterian boundaries at the turn of the 20th century.

Hofer, Samuel. *The Hutterites: Lives and Images of a Communal People*. Saskatoon,

SK: Hofer Publishers, 1998.

This is a popularly-written full-scale review of all of the Hutterian groups by an ex-Hutterite novelist. Hofer includes numerous photographs and is the only writer to date who devotes a chapter to the Hutterite/Bruderhof relationship.

Holzach, Michael. *The Forgotten People: A Year Among the Hutterites*. Sioux Falls, SD: Ex Machina Publishing Company, 1993.

This is an unorthodox account of journalist Holzach's year among the Wilson Colony in Alberta.

Hoover, Walter. *The Hutterian Language*. Saskatoon, SK: self-published, 1997.

Saskatchewan linguist Walter Hoover (who has Hutterian roots) discusses the linguistic roots of the Tyrolean dialect, *Hutterisch*, the first language of the Hutterites.

Hostetler, John A. *Hutterite Society*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

This is the standard and most complete work on Hutterite history and culture, although the 1997 edition is a re-print of the 1974 work and thus does not provide up-to-date information and analysis with regard to significant social and ideological developments during the past thirty years.

Hostetler, John A. and Gertrude Huntington. *The Hutterites in North America*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1996.

This completely revised edition of the 1967 book of the same title, profits from the ethnographic studies of anthropologist Gertrude Huntington – and focuses significant attention on organizational issues.

Hutter, Jacob. *Brotherly Faithfulness: Epistles From a Time of Persecution*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1979.

This is an English translation of Hutterite founder Jacob Hutter's various epistles to Anabaptist brothers and sisters in Austria and Moravia during the 1530s.

Hutterian Brethren, eds. *The Chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren, Volume I*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1987.

This volume, covering the periods 1517-1665, is an English translation of the Hutterites' own official internal history, a unique and unparalleled endeavor in the history of virtually any other religious group of this longevity.

Hutterian Brethren, eds. *The Chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren, Volume II*. Hawley, MN: Spring Prairie Press, 1997.

This book continues the official Hutterite history from 1665-1885. It includes an appendix that outlines Hutterite church ordinances.

Janzen, Rod. *The Prairie People: Forgotten Anabaptists*. Hanover, NH: The University Press of New England, 1999.

This book is a history of the non-communal Hutterian people, the descendants of the two-thirds of Hutterians who decided not to live communally when they migrated from Ukraine to Dakota Territory in the 1870s.

Kraybill, Donald B. and Carl F. Bowman. *On the Backroad to Heaven*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

This book deals with four old order Anabaptist groups: the Old Order Amish, Old Order German Baptist Brethren, Old Order Mennonites and the Hutterites. The Hutterite section is the most recent sociological study of that group.

Klassen, Peter J. *The Economics of Anabaptism*. London: Mouton, 1964.

In this book the historian Klassen discusses the theological foundations of communal economics. Packull, Werner. *Hutterite Beginnings*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

This book – the best that deals with early Hutterite history -- discusses the origins of the Hutterite movement in Austria and Moravia in great detail, with fascinating accounts of the multiple personalities, the diverse ideological positions, the shifting beliefs and practices.

Peter, Karl A. *The Dynamics of Hutterite Society: An Analytical Approach*. Edmonton, AB: University of Alberta Press, 1987.

This book provides an important sociological analysis of Hutterite society.

Peters, Victor. *All Things Common*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1965.

This book is somewhat dated but still presents an important account of Hutterite history and life, particularly with regard to social organization.

Stahl, Lisa Marie. *My Hutterite Life*. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 2003.

This book is a delightful personal account of life “on” a Montana Dariusleut colony. It describes very effectively the way in which the land, religious commitment and daily responsibilities are interconnected.

Stayer, James M. *The German Peasant's War and Anabaptist Community of Goods*. Montreal: McGill/Queens University Press, 1991.

Stayer discusses the interface between social, economic and political developments in the 1520s and 1530s and the development of communal forms of life among some of the Anabaptist groups.

Wilson, Laura. *Hutterites of Montana*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

This is a wonderful collection of award-winning black and white photographs by a former colleague of Richard Avedon.

The Bruderhof

Allain, Roger. *The Community That Failed*. San Francisco: Carrier Pigeon Press, 1992.

This is an account of life in the Bruderhof between 1939 and 1961, by a former Servant of the Word. This book offers important insights into the life and thought of the Bruderhof prior to the major changes that occurred in the early 1960s.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Brothers Unite*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1988.

This is a translation of the diary account of Bruderhof leader Eberhard Arnold's 1930-31 visit to all 33 then-existing Hutterite colonies in North America. Also included are copies of correspondence between Arnold and different individuals at the Rhon Bruderhof in Germany, as well as letters written between 1928 and 1935.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Inner Land: A Guide into the Heart of the Gospel*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1935.

This is Bruderhof founder Eberhard Arnold's classic 500-page *magnum opus*, a reflection on inner spirituality and the individual's relationship to God and other Christians. Arnold delves into the life of the heart, soul, spirit and conscience in the quest to experience God.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Salt and Light*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1977.

This is a collection of Eberhard Arnold's talks and writings on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

This manifesto gave rise to the beginnings of the Bruderhof.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Why We Live in Community*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1976.

This is Arnold's brief analysis of the pillars of community: self-sacrificial love, honest relationships and the joy and unity that arises.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Selected Writings*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2000.

This is a short 120-page Arnold reader that also includes a brief biography.

Arnold, Eberhard and Emmy. *Seeking the Kingdom of God: Origins of the Bruderhof Community* Rifton, NY: Plough, 1974.

This is a selection of the engagement letters of Eberhard Arnold and Emmy (then Von Hollander), showing that Christian communalism was important to Eberhard and Emmy as early as 1899.

Arnold, Emmy. *Torches Together*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1964.

This is an autobiographical account of the beginning years of the Bruderhof movement by one of its founders, the wife of Eberhard Arnold.

Arnold, Heinrich. *Discipleship: Following Christ in the Daily Grind* Rifton, NY: Plough, 1994.

Heinrich Arnold, a son of Eberhard, guides readers toward the Christlike life amid the stress and strain of modern life. In many ways it is a primer to the Christian life, in a variety of settings, both communal and non-communal.

Arnold, Johann Christoph. *A Plea for Purity: Sex, God and Marriage*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1997.

This is Christoph Arnold's discussion of the deep pain that results from a cycle of broken relationships and the misuse of sexual intimacy. This work provides insight on how the Bruderhof understands the relationship between men and women.

Arnold, Johann Christoph. *Why Forgive?* Rifton, NY: Plough, 2002.

This work by a grandson of Eberhard Arnold (who himself served as Bruderhof Elder from 1983-2002) is a very readable work that includes personal experiences of the power of forgiveness, even in situations where it is extremely difficult to let go of feelings of hurtfulness and revenge.

Arnold, J. Heinrich. *Freedom From Sinful Thoughts*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1997.

This is an important practical work which focuses on one of the most important emphases of the Bruderhof; that is, the belief that individual attitudes are foundational to and interconnected with Christian actions.

Baum, Marcus. *Against the Wind*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1998.

In this work, non-member Baum provides the most comprehensive biography of Eberhard Arnold, giving the reader a good sense of the variety of spiritual, economic, political and social forces that shaped Arnold's ideology – from Johann Christoph Blumhardt and the early Christians to the 16th century Anabaptists and the German Youth Movement.

Blumhardt, Christoph. *Action in Waiting*. Farmington, PA: Plough, 1998.

These seventeen essays by Blumhardt focus on the spiritual life as “active expectation” of God's Kingdom breaking into the present world.

Blumhardt, Johann Christoph and Christoph Friedrich. *Thoughts About Children* Rifton, NY: Plough, 1999.

This book contains advice from the Blumhardts with regard to the raising of children. The Blumhardt's emphasize Jesus' relationship to children and their importance in the Kingdom of God.

Church Communities (formerly Bruderhof Communities). <http://www.churchcommunities.com>.

This is the official Church Communities website. Many of their publications are available for free in e-book format at <http://www.plough.com>. Updated weekly, the site offers friends and interested inquirers a broad overview of what the Bruderhof is experiencing and doing.

Eggers, Ulrich. *Community for Life*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald, 1988.

This is an account of Bruderhof life by a German journalist who lived in the Bruderhof for three months in the mid-1980s. Eggers points out community weaknesses as well as strengths.

Eller, Vernard, ed. *Thy Kingdom Come: A Blumhardt Reader*. Waco, TX: Word, 1997.

This is a collection of readings from the writing of Johann Christoph Blumhardt and Christoph Blumhardt, two men who had significant influence on Eberhard Arnold and on the Bruderhof communities.

Hutterian Brethren, eds. *God's Revolution: The Witness of Eberhard Arnold*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1984.

This book is the most comprehensive assortment of writings and presentations by Eberhard Arnold, dealing with a variety of different subjects, including community, worship, mission, education and nonviolence.

Mow, Merrill. *Torches Rekindled*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1989.

Mow, a former Church of the Brethren seminarian, and later Servant of the Word, traces the history of the Bruderhof from the time of his joining (in 1955) to the mid-1980s. This work includes discussion of a number of controversial topics.

Oved, Yaacov. *The Witness of the Brothers*. London: Transaction Press, 1996.

This book is Israeli kibbutz leader Yaacov Oved's history of the Bruderhof. It provides an interesting comparative and international perspective.

Rubin, Julius. *The Other Side of Joy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

This controversial work focuses on the psychological problems associated with the Bruderhof's approach to Christian communalism, specifically the development of a syndrome that Rubin compares to “religious melancholy.” This book is critical of the manner in which the Bruderhof encourages members to be engaged in ongoing inner struggle.

Wagoner, Bob and Shirley. *Community in Paraguay*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 1991.

This book is a first-hand and candid account of six months spent in the Bruderhof communities in Paraguay in the early 1950s. The book paints in vivid color the ups and downs of community life in the South American jungle. Parts of this account – in the form of letters -- convinced many people of Church of the Brethren background to consider joining the Bruderhof although the Wagoners never did.

Zablocki, Benjamin. *The Joyful Community*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 1971.

Sociologist Zablocki has written the most detailed analytical account of Bruderhof life by an outsider. Although dated, former members consider this work essential for the understanding of certain aspects of Bruderhof life.

Zuendel, Friedrich. *The Awakening*. Rifton, NY: Plough, 2000.

This work tells the story of Christoph Blumhardt's spiritual awakening that occurred in Mottlingen, Germany from 1841-1843. Blumhardt's experience with evil and his victory over it, has become a cornerstone of Bruderhof theology.