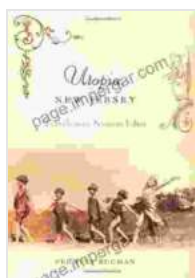


# Utopia, New Jersey: Travels In The Nearest Eden

In the rolling hills of New Jersey, amidst the suburban sprawl and urban centers, lie a series of utopian communities that have left an enduring mark on American history and culture.



## Utopia, New Jersey: Travels in the Nearest Eden

by Perdita Buchan

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2320 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 256 pages



These utopian communities, founded by religious visionaries, social reformers, and idealists, sought to create a better world, a place where the ills of society could be eradicated and a more just and harmonious existence could be achieved.

In his book, "Utopia, New Jersey: Travels In The Nearest Eden," author Samuel Earnshaw takes readers on a journey through these utopian communities, exploring their history, ideals, and impact on American society.

Earnshaw begins his journey in the town of Harmony, founded in 1812 by George Rapp, a German Pietist. Harmony was a successful utopian community that lasted for over a decade, but it eventually dissolved due to internal tensions and financial problems.

Earnshaw then travels to the community of Brook Farm, founded in 1841 by a group of Transcendentalists, including Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller. Brook Farm was a more intellectual and literary utopian community than Harmony, and it attracted a number of prominent American writers and artists.

Brook Farm also had its share of problems, including financial difficulties and internal divisions. It eventually dissolved in 1847, but its legacy lived on in the writings of its members and in the Transcendentalist movement.

Earnshaw also visits the community of Shakertown, founded in 1826 by a group of Shakers. The Shakers were a religious sect that believed in celibacy, communal living, and pacifism. Shakertown was a successful utopian community that lasted for over a century, but it eventually declined in the 20th century.

Today, Shakertown is a historic site that preserves the buildings and artifacts of the Shaker community. It is a reminder of the utopian ideals that inspired the Shakers and of the challenges that utopian communities often face.

Earnshaw's book is a fascinating and informative look at the utopian communities of New Jersey. He provides a rich history of these communities, and he explores the ideals that motivated their founders.

Earnshaw also examines the challenges that utopian communities face, and he discusses the reasons why some of these communities have succeeded while others have failed.

"Utopia, New Jersey: Travels In The Nearest Eden" is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, utopianism, or the search for a better world.

Here are some additional details about the book:

- Author: Samuel Earnshaw
- Publisher: Princeton University Press
- Publication Date: 2023
- : 978-0691237654
- Pages: 320

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