

2022 Apr 21 The other American frontier: midwest utopian communities (The Baffler)

"Modern Republicans still evoke "the party of Lincoln" but, in Lincoln's day, the party shared a clear intellectual lineage with the Paris Commune."

- Evam Malmgren

The brief article linked here barely scratches the surface of the history of communitarian (cooperativist, communalistic, communistic, separatist, utopian, etc) societies (communities, communes, experiments, etc) in the US. A cursory Google search of any of those terms will reveal a wealth of material for further reading (and that's only for those generally considered leftist: more explicitly authoritarian, paternalistic, sectarian, cultist communities require a different set of search terms).

One place to start is the Wikipedia article also linked here. And for a little deeper reach, these three historic books:

Charles Nordhoff, *The Communist Societies of the United States* (orig publ, 1845, republished in a widely popular edition in 1962, and again in 1977 by Schocken Books)

Mark Holloway, *Heavens on Earth: Utopian Communities in America, 1680-1880* (orig publ, 1951, re-issued in a popular Dover edition in 1966 and again as recently as 2011)

Mitchell Goodman, *The Movement toward a New America: The Beginnings of a Long Revolution (a Collage) a What?* (Pilgrim Press/Knopf 1970 [one of my favorites, which includes 60s communes as a small part of a wide range of the era's Movement issues])

<https://thebaffler.com/latest/the-other-american-frontier-malmgren>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_American\\_utopian\\_communities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_American_utopian_communities)