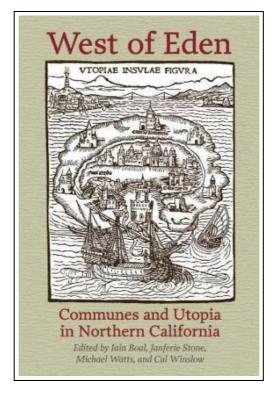
West of Eden: Communes and Utopia in Northern California



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Reviews

The best book i at any time read. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. I realized this publication from my dad and i advised this book to understand.

(Raina Simonis)

WEST OF EDEN: COMMUNES AND UTOPIA IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



PM Press. PAPERBACK. Condition: New. 1604864273 In the shadow of the Vietnam War, a significant part of an entire generation refused their assigned roles in the American century. Some took their revolutionary politics to the streets, others decided simply to turn away, seeking to build another world together, outside the state and the market. West of Eden charts the remarkable flowering of communalism in the 60s and 70s, fueled by a radical rejection of the Cold War corporate deal, utopian visions of a peaceful green planet, the new technologies of sound and light, and the ancient arts of ecstatic release. The book focuses on the San Francisco Bay Area and its hinterlands, which have long been creative spaces for social experiment. Haight-Ashbury's gift economy?its free clinic, concerts, and street theatre?and Berkeley's liberated zones?Sproul Plaza, Telegraph Avenue, and People's Park?were embedded in a wider network of producer and consumer co-ops, food conspiracies, and collective schemes. Using memoir and flashbacks, oral history and archival sources, West of Eden explores the deep historical roots and the enduring, though often disavowed, legacies of the extraordinary pulse of radical energies that generated forms of collective life beyond the nuclear family and the world of private consumption, including the contradictions evident in such figures as the guru/predator or the hippie/entrepreneur. There are vivid portraits of life on the rural communes of Mendocino and Sonoma, and essays on the Black Panther communal households in Oakland, the latter-day Diggers of San Francisco, the Native American occupation of Alcatraz, the pioneers of live/work space for artists, and the Bucky dome as the iconic architectural form of the sixties. Due to the prevailing amnesia?partly imposed by official narratives, partly self-imposed in the aftermath of defeat? West of Eden is not only a necessary act of reclamation, helping to record the unwritten...

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