

# Desert Patriarchy

Mormon and Mennonite  
Communities in the  
Chihuasha Valley



*Janet Bennion*

# Desert Patriarchy Mormon And Mennonite Communities In The Chihuahua Valley

**Kristin Hoganson, Jay Sexton**



### **Desert Patriarchy Mormon And Mennonite Communities In The Chihuahua Valley:**

Desert Patriarchy Janet Bennion, 2004-05 On the high desert plateau of northern Mexico outsiders have taken refuge from the secular world Here three Anglo communities of Mormons and Mennonites have ordered their lives around male supremacy rigid religious duty and a rejection of modern technology and culture In so doing they have successfully adapted to this harsh desert environment Janet Bennion has lived and worked among these people and in this book she introduces a new paradigm desert patriarchy to explain their way of life This perspective sheds light not only on these particular communities but also on the role of the desert environment in the development and maintenance of fundamentalist ideology in other parts of the United States and around the globe Making new connections between the arid environment opposition to technology and gender ideology Bennion shows that it is the interplay of the desert and the unique social traditions and gender dynamics embedded in Anglo patriarchal fundamentalism that accounts for the successful longevity of the Mexican colonies Her model defines the process by which male supremacy female autonomous networking and religious fundamentalism all facilitate successful adaptation to the environment More than a theoretical analysis Desert Patriarchy provides an intimate glimpse into the daily lives of these people showing how they have taken refuge in the desert to escape religious persecution the forced secular education of their children and economic and political marginalization It particularly sheds light on the ironic autonomy of women within a patriarchal system showing how fundamentalist women in Chihuahua are finding numerous creative ways to access power and satisfaction in a society structured to subordinate and even degrade them Desert Patriarchy richly expands the literature on nontraditional religious movements as it enhances our understanding of how environment can shape society It offers unique insights into women's status in patriarchal communities and provides a new way of looking at similar communities worldwide

Liminal Sovereignty Rebecca Janzen, 2018-08-27 Liminal Sovereignty examines the lives of two religious minority communities in Mexico Mennonites and Mormons as seen through Mexican culture Mennonites emigrated from Canada to Mexico from the 1920s to the 1940s and Mormons emigrated from the United States in the 1880s left in 1912 and returned in the 1920s Rebecca Janzen focuses on representations of these groups in film television online comics photography and legal documents Janzen argues that perceptions of Mennonites and Mormons groups on the margins and borders of Mexican society illustrate broader trends in Mexican history The government granted both communities significant exceptions to national laws to encourage them to immigrate she argues that these foreshadow what is today called the Mexican state of exception The groups inclusion into the Mexican nation shows that post Revolutionary Mexico was flexible with its central tenets of land reform and building a mestizo race Janzen uses minority communities at the periphery to give us a new understanding of the Mexican nation

**American Sociology of Religion**, 2007-08-31 This is a collection of histories of various aspects of American sociology of religion The contributions range from descriptions of early dissertations accounts of changes in theoretical conceptualization

the evolution of studies of particular denominations to the rise of new areas of inquiry such as globalization feminism new religions and the study of the religious traditions of Latino Americans Taken as a whole the volume complements rather than duplicates commemorative issues of the relevant journals which focused on the scholarly organizations in the field It represents a first effort to develop an organized treatment of the fascinating history of the specialty in the U S A **Women in Utah History** Patricia Lyn Scott,Linda Thatcher,2005-11-15 A project of the Utah Women s History Association and cosponsored by the Utah State Historical Society Paradigm or Paradox provides the first thorough survey of the complicated history of all Utah women Some of the finest historians studying Utah examine the spectrum of significant social and cultural topics in the state s history that particularly have involved or affected women **Just South of Zion** Jason H. Dormady,Jared M. Tamez,2015-10-15 Mormons first came to Mexico as soldiers during the Mexican American War and later as missionaries refugees and settlers Just South of Zion assembles new scholarship on the first century of Mormon history in Mexico from 1847 to 1947 The essays cover topics such as polygamy colonization the role of women in Mormon local worship indigenous intellectuals Mormon transnational identity and the role of violence and masculinity in Mormon identity Representing a broad variety of scholarship from Mexican US and Mormon historical studies the volume will be recognized as a useful survey of religious pluralism in Mexico Unlike earlier books on the subject it does not include religious testimony or confession offering historians a chance to reconsider the significance of Mexico s Mormon experience A glossary of LDS terminology makes the book especially useful for students and readers new to the topic **Modern Polygamy and Mormon Fundamentalism** Brian C. Hales,2006-01-01 2007 Best Book Award John Whitmer Historical Association Under the subject of alternative lifestyles the issue of polygamous relationships falls squarely in the middle of the debate Polygamous marriages are a common practice in many other countries but the United States has vehemently opposed such unions and will no doubt find itself disputing its position on them again in the near future As with the same sex marriage issue a firestorm of controversy surrounds the question since the right to participate in a polygamous union is very much tied to the right to live out one s preferences religious or not Detailed accounts of sexual abuse and child brides are frequently leaked from the various polygamous societies notwithstanding their extreme efforts to remain under the radar of law enforcement and the press A by product of these mysterious societies is that public interest is vitalized by their continuous efforts to gain independence from traditionalist culture This fascinating study seeks to trace the historical tapestry that is early Mormon polygamy details the official discontinuation of the practice by the Church and for the first time describes the many zeal driven organizations that arose in the wake of that decision Among the polygamous groups discussed are the LeBaronites whose blood atonement killings sent fear throughout Mormon communities in the late seventies and the eighties the FLDS Church which made news recently over its construction of a compound and temple in Texas and Warren Jeffs arrest and conviction and the Allred and Kingston groups two major factions with substantial membership statistics both in and out

of the United States All these fascinating histories along with those of the smaller independent groups are examined and explained in a way that all can appreciate *Anti-Catholicism in the Mexican Revolution, 1913-1940* Jürgen Buchenau, David S. Dalton, 2024-12-01 Anti Catholicism in the Mexican Revolution 1913 1940 examines anti Catholic leaders and movements during the Mexican Revolution an era that resulted in a constitution denying the Church political rights Anti Catholic Mexicans recognized a common enemy in a politically active Church in a predominantly Catholic nation Many books have elucidated the popular roots and diversity of Roman Catholicism in Mexico but the perspective of the Church s adversaries has remained much less understood This volume provides a fresh perspective on the violent conflict between Catholics and the revolutionary state which was led by anti Catholics such as Plutarco El as Calles who were bent on eradicating the influence of the Catholic Church in politics in the nation s educational system and in the national consciousness The zeal with which anti Catholics pursued their goals and the equal vigor with which Catholics defended their Church and their faith explains why the conflict between Catholics and anti Catholics turned violent culminating in the devastating Cristero Rebellion 1926 1929 Collecting essays by a team of senior scholars in history and cultural studies the book includes chapters on anti Catholic leaders and intellectuals movements promoting scientific education and anti alcohol campaigns muralism feminist activists and Mormons and Mennonites A concluding afterword by Matthew Butler a global authority on twentieth century Mexican religion provides a larger perspective on the themes of the book

**Joseph Smith's Polygamy, Volume 3: Theology** Brian C. Hales, 2013-02-26 Americans of Joseph Smith s day steeped in the stories and prophecies of the King James Bible certainly knew about plural marriage but it was a curiosity relegated to the misty past of patriarchs Abraham and Jacob who never gave reasons for their polygamy It was long abandoned Christians understood by the time Jesus set forth the dominating law of the New Testament But how did Joseph Smith understand it Where did it fit in the restitution of all things Acts 3 21 predicted in the New Testament What part did it play in the global ideology declared by this modern prophet who produced new scripture new revelation and new theology During Joseph Smith s lifetime polygamy was taught and practiced in intense secrecy with the result that he never fully explained its doctrinal underpinnings or systematized its practice As a result reconstructing Joseph Smith s theology of plurality is a task that has seldom been undertaken Most theological examinations have either focused on its development during Brigham Young s Utah period with its need to resist increasing federal legislative and judicial pressures or the efforts of twentieth century and contemporary fundamentalists who continue to marry a plurality of wives Volume 3 of this three volume work builds on the carefully reconstructed history of the development of Mormon polygamy during Joseph Smith s lifetime then assembles the doctrinal principles from his recorded addresses the diary entries of those closely associated with him and his broader teachings on the related topics of obedience to God s will marriage and family relations and the mechanics of eternal progression salvation and exaltation The revelation he dictated in July 1843 that authorized the practice of eternal and plural marriage receives unprecedented

examination and careful interpretation that illuminate this significant document and its underlying doctrines Attempts to explain the history of Joseph Smith's polygamy without comprehending the theological principles undergirding its practice will always be incomplete and skewed This volume which takes those principles and evidences with the utmost seriousness has produced the most important explanation of why this ancient practice reemerged among the Latter-day Saints on the shores of the Mississippi in the early 1840s

**Forever Families** Jason Palmer, 2024-06-25 Peruvian members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints face the dilemma of embracing their faith while finding space to nourish their Peruvianness Jason Palmer draws on eight years of fieldwork to provide an on-the-ground look at the relationship between Peruvian Saints and the racial and gender complexities of the contemporary Church Peruvian Saints discovered that the foundational ideas of kinship and religion ceased being distinct categories in their faith At the same time they came to see that LDS rituals and reenactments placed coloniality in opposition to the Peruvians' indigenous roots and family against the more expansive Peruvian idea of familia In part one Palmer explores how Peruvian Saints resolved the first clash by creating the idea of a new pioneer indigeneity that rejected victimhood in favor of subtle engagements with power Part two illuminates the work performed by Peruvian Saints as they stretched the Anglo Church's model of the nuclear family to encompass familia

Illicit Monogamy William R. Jankowiak, 2023-03-28 Angel Park is a Mormon fundamentalist polygamous community where plural marriages between one man and multiple women are common In contrast to mainstream America's idealization of the nuclear family and romantic love its residents esteem notions of harmonious familial love a spiritual bond that unites all family members In their view polygyny is not only righteous and sanctified it is also conducive to communal life and social stability Based on many years of in-depth ethnographic research in Angel Park this book explores daily life in a polygamous community William R. Jankowiak considers the plural family from the points of view of husbands, wives, and children giving a balanced account of its complications and conflicts He finds that people in polygynous marriages especially co-wives experience an ongoing struggle to balance the longing for romantic intimacy with the obligation to support the larger family They feel tension between deeply held religious convictions and the desire for emotional exclusivity which can threaten the stability and harmony of the polygamous family Men and women often form exclusive romantic pairs within plural marriages which are tolerated if not openly acknowledged showing the limits of the community's beliefs Jankowiak also challenges stereotypes of polygamous families as bastions of patriarchal power showing the weight that interpersonal and social expectations place on men Offering an unparalleled look at the complexity of a polygamous religious community Illicit Monogamy also helps us reconsider relationships, love, and family dynamics across cultures and settings

The Colony Sally Denton, 2022-06-28 A Publishers Weekly Summer Reads Selection The Colony is one of the most gripping and disturbing true stories I've ever come across Douglas Preston An investigation into the November 2019 killings of nine women and children in Northern Mexico an event that drew international attention The

Colony examines the strange little understood world of a polygamist Mormon outpost On the morning of November 4 2019 an unassuming caravan of women and children was ambushed by masked gunmen on a desolate stretch of road in northern Mexico controlled by the Sinaloa drug cartel Firing semi automatic weapons the attackers killed nine people and gravely injured five more The victims were members of the LeBaron and La Mora communities fundamentalist Mormons whose forebears broke from the LDS Church and settled in Mexico when their religion outlawed polygamy in the late nineteenth century The massacre produced international headlines for weeks and prompted President Donald Trump to threaten to send in the US Army In The Colony bestselling investigative journalist Sally Denton picks up where the initial incomplete reporting on the attacks ended and delves into the complex story of the LeBaron clan Their homestead Colonia LeBaron is a portal into the past a place that offers a glimpse of life within a polygamous community on an arid and dangerous frontier in the mid 1800s though with smartphones and machine guns Rooting her narrative in written sources as well as interviews with anonymous women from LeBaron itself Denton unfolds an epic disturbing tale that spans the first polygamist emigrations to Mexico through the LeBarons internal blood feud in the 1970s started by Ervil LeBaron known as the Mormon Manson and up to the family s recent alliance with the NXIVM sex cult whose now imprisoned leader Keith Raniere may have based his practices on the society he witnessed in Colonia LeBaron The LeBarons tense but peaceful interactions with Sinaloa deteriorated in the years leading up to the ambush LeBaron patriarchs believed they were deliberately targeted by the cartel Others suspected that local farmers had carried out the attacks in response to the LeBarons seizure of water rights for their massive pecan orchards As Denton approaches answers to who committed the murders and why The Colony transforms into something more than a crime story A descendant of polygamist Mormons herself Denton explores what drove so many women over generations to join or remain in a community based on male supremacy and female servitude Then and now these women of Zion found themselves in an isolated desert navigating the often mysterious complications of plural marriage and supported Denton shows only by one another A mesmerizing feat of investigative journalism The Colony doubles as an unforgettable account of sisterhood that can flourish in polygamist communities against the odds *Answer Them Nothing* Debra Weyermann, 2011-08-01 When police raided the Short Creek compound of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1953 it soon became a political and publicity nightmare and eventually cost the governor of Arizona his job From that point on skittish public officials allowed the polygamist sect to practice its tenants unmolested for the next 50 years and turned a blind eye to child abandonment kidnapping statutory rape incest and massive tax and welfare fraud But then Warren Jeffs a new FLDS prophet escalated the sect s crimes to near madness Activists watched in horror as he used his limitless authority and the resources of a tax supported community in essence a feudal empire on the Utah Arizona border to devastate thousands of lives on cruel whims marrying girls as young as 11 to 60 year old men and driving off teenage lost boys who Jeffs felt threatened his authority *Answer Them Nothing* is the chilling story of the victims activists prosecutors

judges cops and attorneys who in 2001 began the struggle to dismantle the FLDS empire and bring Jeffs and his henchmen to justice It is a mesmerizing journey into one of America s darkest corners a story that stretches over three states and deep into history of the powerful Mormon Church     Plural Marriage for Our Times Philip L. Kilbride, Douglas R. Page, 2012-08-17 This thoroughly revised second edition offers a child centered international perspective as it urges America to de stigmatize alternate family forms In this book s first edition Philip L Kilbride showed polygamy as the preferred marriage pattern in most parts of the nonwestern world and explained how plural marriage is surfacing in western countries to address economic and spiritual crises In Plural Marriage for Our Times A Reinvented Option Second Edition Kilbride and his coauthor Douglas R Page update and enhance this thesis in light of contemporary circumstances new studies and current legal debates This new edition examines plural marriage s benefits for children It extends the discussion of polygamy and religion especially the Muslim perspective on marriage and family considers the illegal polygamy of immigrants and looks at multiple marriage in African American communities where crisis polygamy is a growing phenomenon The authors suggest Americans consider plural marriage as a viable practice that can help reduce the divorce rate better protect women and children and serve as an alternative to the fractured family so prevalent in America today     **Machines for Making Gods** Jon Bialecki, 2022-03-01 The Mormon faith may seem so different from aspirations to transcend the human through technological means that it is hard to imagine how these two concerns could even exist alongside one another let alone serve together as the joint impetus for a social movement Machines for Making Gods investigates the tensions between science and religion through which an imaginative group of young Mormons and ex Mormons have found new ways of understanding the world The Mormon Transhumanist Association MTA believes that God intended humanity to achieve Mormonism s promise of theosis through imminent technological advances Drawing on a nineteenth century Mormon tradition of religious speculation to reimagine Mormon eschatological hopes as near future technological possibilities they envision such current and possible advances as cryonic preservation computer simulation and quantum archeology as paving the way for the resurrection of the dead the creation of worlds without end and promise of undergoing theosis of becoming a god Addressing the role of speculation in the anthropology of religion Machines for Making Gods undoes debates about secular transhumanism s relation to religion by highlighting the differences an explicitly religious transhumanism makes Charting the conflicts and resonances between secular transhumanism and Mormonism Bialecki shows how religious speculation has opened up imaginative horizons to give birth to new forms of Mormonism including a particular progressive branch of the faith and even such formations as queer polygamy The book also reveals how the MTA s speculative account of God and technology together has helped to forestall some of the social pressure that comes with apostasy in much of the Mormon Intermountain West A fascinating ethnography of a group with much to say about crucial junctures of modern culture Machines for Making Gods illustrates how the scientific imagination can be better understood when viewed through anthropological accounts of myth     Saints, Sinners,

and Sovereign Citizens John L. Smith, 2021-03-18 Listed as one of the Reno News Review's New Books from Nevada Authors December 29 2021 The grazing rights battle between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and the federal government resulting in a tense armed standoff between Bundy's supporters and federal law enforcement officers garnered international media attention in 2014 Saints Sinners and Sovereign Citizens places the Bundy conflict into the larger context of the Sagebrush Rebellion and the long struggle over the use of federal public lands in the American West Author John L. Smith skillfully captures the drama of the Bundy legal tangle amid the current political climate Although no shots were fired during the standoff itself just weeks later self-proclaimed Bundy supporters murdered two Las Vegas police officers and a civilian In Eastern Oregon other Bundy supporters occupied the federal offices of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and one of them died in a hail of bullets While examining the complex history of federal public land policies Smith exposes both sides of this story He shows that there are passionate true believers on opposite sides of the insurrection along with government agents and politicians in Washington complicit in efforts to control public lands for their wealthy allies and campaign contributors With the promise of billions of dollars in natural resource profits and vast tracts of environmentally sensitive lands hanging in the balance the West's latest range war is the most important in the nation's history This masterful exposé raises serious questions about the fate of America's public lands and the vehement arguments that are framing the debate from all sides

*Family Planning: Rules for a Healthy Cult* Nations United Together Society - NUTS, This self-help book for cult leaders is ideal for anyone with a sense of humor Dark and provocative humor In a satirical twist it uses short stories about 40 different cults as case studies to teach the vital steps for starting your own cult The lessons will ensure that your cult becomes a vibrant flourishing network of submissive lemmings and extension of God's will interpretable by no one but you **The**

**Cambridge History of America and the World** Kristin Hoganson, Jay Sexton, 2022-03-03 The second volume of The Cambridge History of America and the World examines how the United States rose to great power status in the nineteenth century and how the rest of the world has shaped the United States Mixing top-down and bottom-up perspectives insider and outsider views cultural social political military environmental legal technological and other veins of analysis it places the United States Indigenous nations and their peoples in the context of a rapidly integrating world Specific topics addressed in the volume include nation and empire building inter-Indigenous relations settler colonialism slavery and statecraft the Mexican American War global integration the antislavery international the global dimensions of the Civil War overseas empire building state formation international law global capitalism border crossing movement politics technology health the environment immigration policy missionary endeavors mobility tourism expatriation cultural production colonial intimacies borderlands the liberal North Atlantic US African relations Islamic world encounters the US island empire the greater Caribbean world and transimperial entanglements *Experimental Latin American Cinema* Cynthia Tompkins, 2013-02-15 Includes a filmography with the bibliography Talking with the Children of God Gordon Shepherd, Gary

Shepherd, 2024-04-22 Grounded in direct systematic observation by neutral observers Talking with the Children of God is a unique study of the radical religious movement now known as The Family International The book draws on extraordinarily candid interviews with the group's leaders and administrative staff In revealing new information about the organization's history beliefs and use of prophecy Gordon Shepherd and Gary Shepherd offer a highly detailed case study that is both an antidote to sensationalized coverage of the group and a means for understanding the transformational practices of new religious movements in general One of the most controversial groups emerging from the Jesus People movement of the 1960s the Family originally was known as The Children of God Under leader David Berg members proclaimed an apocalyptic Endtime shunned secular occupations lived communally and adopted unusual sexual practices that led to abuse scandals in the 1970s and 1980s Following Berg's death in 1994 the organization began to dramatically alter its evangelization efforts and decision making processes Talking with the Children of God builds a picture of a complex organization with ten thousand core members worldwide including details on the lives careers and responsibilities of the second generation and their efforts to defend their faith The authors summarize the Family's history and beliefs as well as its controversial past In particular they analyze the organization's use of prophecy or channeled revelations from Jesus and other spiritual beings for making decisions and setting policy revealing how this essentially democratic process works and how it shapes Family life and culture These remarkable insights are the result of sixteen years of surveys and field observations conducted in Family member homes in sixteen countries plus four days of face to face interviews with Family leaders and organizational staff The volume also includes condensed transcripts of the interviews with analysis by Shepherd and Shepherd **Cultural DNA**

Gurnek Bains, 2015-03-17 Develop deeper cultural intelligence to thrive in a globalized world Cultural DNA is a thought provoking book for successful engagement with cultures around the world Written by Gurnek Bains founder and chairman of a global business psychology consultancy this book guides leaders through the essential soft skills required to get under the skin and engage an increasingly connected world Presenting ground breaking original research and the latest evidence from neuroscience behavioral genetics and psychology the deepest instincts of eight key global cultures are dissected Readers will understand the psychological themes at play in regions such as the U S Latin America Europe China India the Middle East Sub Saharan Africa and Australia Additionally an extensive database of 30 000 leaders provides insights to inform the reader The book addresses questions such as What are the challenges for leaders from different regions as they move into onto the global stage Why are Americans so positive Why is China a world leader in manufacturing and India in IT Why do overseas firms struggle in the U S market place What are the emotional forces driving current events in the Middle East Each culture has attributes that developed over thousands of years to address unique environmental challenges This DNA drumbeat from the past reverberates through each society affecting everything As globalization marches on we can also learn important lessons from the world's distinct societies Globalization demands that cultures learn to work within each other's needs and

expectations and the right mix of people skills business acumen and cultural awareness is key Business and Political leaders will understand how each regions cultural DNA influences Its economic and political institutions People s underlying consumer psychology The soft skills needed to lead in that environment How to best release people s potential The issues that need to be managed to anticipate and solve problems before they arise Every now and again a new book comes along that is a must read Malcolm Gladwell s Tipping Point or a Seth Godin s Tribes Cultural DNA by Gurnek Bains by virtue of its depth originality and ambition is that very book for all global leaders

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### **Desert Patriarchy Mormon And Mennonite Communities In The Chihuahua Valley Introduction**

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