

# The Theory of Developmental Communalism: Description and Bibliography

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Developmental communalism is both a theory and a process. As a theory, it focuses on movements that choose the communal method of organizing and the adjustments they make to their organizational structures, beliefs, and practices to insure the survival and expansion of the movements. Developmental communalism theory recognizes that communal living is a universally available social mechanism in all times to all peoples, governments, and movements. Secular as well as religious movements adopt communal living, often in a vulnerable early stage because it promises security, solidarity, and survival. Developmental communalism sees communitarianism as a method of social change with both advantages and disadvantages compared to individualism, gradual reform and revolution. Communitarianism is immediate, voluntary, collective, non-violent, and experimental, but it can be isolating, authoritarian, and especially difficult if it attempts communities that require all the elements of a social microcosm.

As a process, developmental communalism is an adaptive continuum in both individual communities and the larger movements that found them. To survive over long periods of time, communal groups and their founding movements must adapt to changing realities within and without. The process of developmental communalism poses a double-jeopardy threat to both communal groups and their movements. If communal living becomes an unchangeable commitment, the founding movement may fail to make necessary adjustments, stagnate, and die, thus causing the death of its communal groups. If the founding movement is dynamic enough to make changes away from the restrictions of communal living, the movement may expand while its communes become unnecessary or abandoned.

## Bibliography of the Theory of Developmental Communalism

The following pages contain an annotated bibliography of the theory of developmental communalism. Section I lists the papers and publications on developmental communalism by Don Pitzer since he introduced the theory in 1983. Most all can be found in the Communal Studies Collection of the Special Collections Department, David L. Rice Library, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana. (<http://www.usi.edu/library/university-archives-and-special-collections>) Section II documents publications of more than twenty-five communal and utopian scholars and communitarians who have used developmental communalism as a theoretical framework. Section III has unpublished papers that include developmental communalism. Section IV gives publications that describe an adaptive process in communal groups without referring to the theory of developmental communalism. Section V summarizes prime sources on the theoretical and definitional dimensions of communalism and utopianism.

This bibliography and periodic updates will be posted for downloading on the University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies “Community Updates” link at <http://www.usi.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center/community-updates/>. Please email suggested additions and comments to Don Pitzer at [dpitzer@usi.edu](mailto:dpitzer@usi.edu).

## Bibliography of Developmental Communalism

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The papers and publications of Donald Elden Pitzer and many of the publications of others listed in this bibliography are available in the Communal Studies Collection of the Special Collections Department, David L. Rice Library, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712 and can be accessed at <http://www.usi.edu/library/univeristy-archives-and-special-collections>)

### I. Donald E. Pitzer's Papers and Publications on his Theory of Developmental Communalism

Pitzer, Donald Elden. "The Uses of the American Communal Past." Paper presented at the meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association later named the Communal Studies Association, New Harmony, Indiana, October 13, 1983. First paper to mention the theory of developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "The Uses of the American Communal Past: Keynote Address for the Tenth Annual Historic Communal Societies Conference, New Harmony, Indiana, October 13, 1983." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the National Historic Communal Societies Association* (1984), vol. 4: 215-242. See pages 227-229 for the first published statement on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism: Beyond Success and Failure." Paper presented at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, April 6, 1986. First entire paper devoted to developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism in the Pietist Tradition." Paper presented at the International Conference on Coping With Modernity, Center for the Study of Anabaptism and Pietism, Elizabethtown, Colledge, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 24, 1987.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism: An Alternative Approach to Communal Studies." Paper presented at the International Communal Studies Association/Communal Studies Association conference, University of Edinburgh and New Lanark, Scotland, July 20, 1988.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism: An Alternative Approach to Communal Studies." In *Utopian Thought and Communal Experience*, edited by Dennis Hardy and Lorna Davidson. Geography and Planning Paper No. 24. Enfield, England: School of Geography and Planning, Middlesex Polytechnic (1989), 68-76. Reprinted in *Community Service Newsletter* (January/February 1991), vol. 39, no. 1: 1-5 continued in (March/April 1991), vol. 39, no. 2: 1-5. Reprinted in *The Guide To Communal Living: Diggers & Dreamers 94/95*, edited by Ch. Coates, et al. Redfield Community, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, England: Communes Network, (1993), 85-92.

Pitzer, Donald. "Testing the Theory of Developmental Communalism." Paper presented at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, April 8, 1989.

Pitzer, Donald. "The Theory of Developmental Communalism." Paper presented at a panel on Developmental Communalism at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1991.

Pitzer, Donald. "New Harmony's Harmonists and Owenites: Two Approaches to Utopia and Developmental Communalism." Paper presented at the Communal Studies Association/ International Communal Studies Association conference, New Harmony, Indiana, October 14, 1993.

Pitzer, Donald and Jayne Tang. "The Emergence and Changing Architecture of Community in Cyberspace." Joint paper presented at the Communal Studies Association meeting, Oneida, NY, October 8, 1994.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism: The Double-Jeopardy Threat to Communal Longevity." Paper presented at the International Communal Studies Association meeting in Ramat Efal, Israel, May 30, 1995.

Pitzer, Donald, editor, *America's Communal Utopias [A Developmental Approach]*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997). "Preface," xv-xxi, and "Introduction," 3-13 states the theory of developmental communalism. Original essays by seventeen communal scholars explore the application of developmental communalism to major historic communal groups and their founding movements. Appendix on pages 449-494 lists information on more than 1,000 communal societies established in America by 1965 both alphabetically and by their founding movements to emphasize the developmental communalism approach. See chapters dealing with the communes of individual movements listed in Section II below "Publications that include Developmental Communalism as a Theoretical Framework."

Pitzer, Donald. "The New Moral World of Robert Owen and New Harmony." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald E. Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 88-134.

Pitzer, Donald. "Response to Lockyer's 'From Developmental Communalism to Transformative Utopianism.'" In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association* (2009), vol. 29, no. 1: 15-21.

Pitzer, Donald. "How the Harmonists Suffered Disharmony: Schism in Communal Utopias." In *American Communal Societies Quarterly* (April 2011), vol. 5, no. 2: 55-75.

Pitzer, Donald. "Introduction to the 2012 Reprint Edition." In Arthur Bestor, *Backwoods Utopias: The Sectarian Origins and the Owenite Phase of Communitarian Socialism in America, 1663-1829*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers (2012), xi-xli. See pages xxi-xxv, xxvii-xxxiii, xl on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald and Darryl Jones. *New Harmony Then & Now*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press (2012). See pages 79-80 on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "Developmental Communalism into the Twenty-First Century." In *The Communal Idea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Yaacov Oved, and Menachem Topel. Leiden: Brill (2013), 33-52.

Pitzer, Donald with Donald Janzen, Docey Lewis, and Rachel Wright-Summerton. "Communes and Intentional Communities." In *The Routledge Companion to Alternative Organization*, edited by Martin Parker, Valerie Fournier, *et al.* (2014), 89-104. Includes case studies by Don Janzen, Docey Lewis, and Rachel Wright-Summerton that detail the economic aspects of the developmental process in the Shiloh Family, Padanaram, and the micro-philanthrocapitalism kinship village of Ndem, Senegal respectively.

Pitzer, Donald. "The Capitalism, Christian Communism, and Communitarian Socialism of New Harmony's Founders George Rapp and Robert Owen." In *A New Social Question: Capitalism, Socialism, and Utopia*, edited by Casey Harison. Newcastle upon Tyne, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2015). See pages 115-119 on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "The Communal Studies Association at Forty: A Personal Retrospective." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association*, (2015), vol. 35, no. 1: 81-108. See pages 99-100 on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "Memories of ICSA," In *The International Communal Studies Association History and Recollections*, edited by Yaacov Oved and Jan Martin Bang. Online at [www.communa.org.il/icsa](http://www.communa.org.il/icsa) (2016), 10-21. See pages 14-19 on developmental communalism.

Pitzer, Donald. "The Origins and Applications of Developmental Communalism from Amana to Zoar." Paper presented at the Communal Studies Association meeting, Zoar, Ohio, October 6, 2017.

## II. Publications that include Developmental Communalism as a Theoretical Framework

Altus, Deborah. "The Value of Community: What Defines Success?" In *Communities: Life in Cooperative Culture* (Fall 2017), issue 176: 31-32.

Andelson, Jonathan G. "The Community of True Inspiration from Germany to the Amana Colonies." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 181-203.

Arndt, Karl J. R. "George Rapp's Harmony Society." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 57-87.

Bartelt, Pearl W. "American Jewish Agricultural Colonies." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 352-374.

Bang, Jan Martin. *Growing Eco-Communities: Practical Ways To Create Sustainability*. Edinburgh: Floris Books (2007). See pages 209 and 232 on the theory of developmental communalism.

Bates, Albert. "Post-Communal Economic Experiments at The Farm in the Context of Developmental Communalism." In *Green Revolution* (Winter 1993–94), vol. 50, no. 4. Available online using the author's name and article title.

Bates, Albert. *The Post Petroleum Survival Guide and Cookbook: Recipes for Changing Times*. Gabriolas Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers (2006). See page 164 "Sidebar: Developmental Communalism."

Bates, Albert. *The Financial Collapse Survival Guide and Cookbook*. Summertown, Tennessee: Ecovillage (2015). Kindle 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. See "Sidebar: Developmental Communalism."

Bechtel, Franziska. *New Harmony: Das Experiment und sein Vermächtnis*. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft (2018). See pages 23-25, 528, 529 on developmental communalism.

Brewer, Pricilla J. "The Shakers of Mother Ann Lee." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 37-56.

Brown, Gregory. "We Want to Learn and Succeed: Expelled Middle School Students discuss School as Communities." Doctoral Dissertation, Indiana University, 1996. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University Microfilms (1996). See page 47. Don Pitzer was a member of Gregory Brown's Doctoral Committee.

Durnbaugh, Donald F. "Communitarian Societies in Colonial America." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 14-36.

Fernandez, Kathleen M. *Zoar: The Story of an Intentional Community*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press (2019). See page 29 on developmental communalism.

Guarneri, Carl J. "Brook Farm and the Fourierist Phalanxes: Immediatism, Gradualism, and American Utopian Socialism." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press (1997), 159-180.

Hicks, George L. *Experimental Americans: Celo and Utopian Community in the Twentieth Century*. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press (2001).

Hine, Robert V. "California's Socialist Utopias." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 419-431.

Hoehnle, Peter. *The Amana People: The History of a Religious Community*. Iowa City, Iowa: Penfield Books (2003). See pages 66-90, 94 on the developmental process.

Huntington, Gertrude E. "Living in the Ark: Four Centuries of Hutterite Faith and Community." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 319-351.

Landing, James E. "Cyrus Reed Teed and the Koreshan Unity." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 375-395.

Lawrence Foster, "Free Love and Community: John Humphrey Noyes and the Oneida Perfectionists." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 253-278.

Lockyer, Joshua, *Sustainability and Utopianism: An Ethnography of Cultural Critique in Contemporary Intentional Communities*. Doctoral Dissertation, University of Georgia, 2007. Available online from University of Georgia Library.

Lockyer, Joshua. "From Developmental Communalism to Transformative Utopianism: An Imagined Conversation with Donald Pitzer." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association* (2009), vol. 29, no. 1: 1-14.

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May, Dean L. "One Heart and Mind: Communal Life and Values among the Mormons." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 135-158.

McCrank, Lawrence J. "Religious Orders and Monastic Communalism in America." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 204-252.

McKanan, Daniel. "Camphill at Seventy-Five: Developmental Communalism in Process." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association* (2016), vol. 36, no. 1: 25-49.

Melton, J. Gordon. "The Theosophical Communities and Their Ideal of Universal Brotherhood." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 396-418.

Pitzer, Donald E. See publications in Section I above.

Sutton, Robert P. "An American Elysium: The Icarian Communities." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 279-296.

Wagner, Jon. "Eric Jansson and the Bishop Hill Colony." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 297-318.

Weisbrot, Robert S. "Father Divine and the Peace Mission." In *America's Communal Utopias*, edited by Donald Pitzer. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press (1997), 432-447.

### III. Unpublished Papers that include Developmental Communalism

Barger, Elizabeth and Albert Bates. "Developing Cooperative Living at The Farm: Escaping the Influence of American Society's Patriarchal Systems." Joint paper presented at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1991.

Bartelt, Pearl. "Developmental Communalism in Jewish Settlements in the USA." Paper presented at the panel on Developmental Communalism at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1991.

Bates, Albert. "Post-communal Economic Experiments at The Farm in the context of Developmental Communalism." Paper presented at the panel on Developmental Communalism at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1991.

Bates, Albert. "From Intentional Community to Ecovillage: The Farm in the Nineties," Presented at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Yad Tabenkin Institute, Eyal, Ramat Eyal, Israel, June 1, 1995.

Dandy, Alexander M. "The 'MAGIC' of Senior Cohousing and the Theory of Developmental Communalism," Endeavor Symposium, University of Southern Indiana, April 11, 2019. Also presented at the board of advisors meeting of the Center for Communal Studies, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana, May 8, 2019.

Melton, J. Gordon. "Theosophy—Before, During, and Since its Communal Phases." Paper presented at the panel on Developmental Communalism at the International Communal Studies Association conference, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1991.

Pitzer, Donald E. See unpublished papers in Section I above.

### IV. Publications that Describe an Adaptive Process in Communal Groups Some Referring to the Theory of Developmental Communalism as noted

Andelson, Jonathan G. "The Challenge of Sustainability: A Cautionary Tale from Amana." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association* (2011), vol.31, no. 1:29-53.

Atmore, Lane. "Death of a Guru: An Analysis of the Postcharismatic Phase in the Transcendental Meditation Movement." In *Communal Societies: Journal of the Communal Studies Association* (2017), vol. 37, no. 1:51-81.

Bates, Albert. "Technological Innovation in a Rural Intentional Community 1971-1987." In *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* (1988), vol. 8: 183-199.

Ben-Rafael, Eliezer, Yaacov Oved, and Menachem Topel, eds. *The Communal Idea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Leiden: Brill (2013). Refers to developmental communalism on pages 6, 33-52, 63-68, 342.

Ben-Rafael, Eliezer. "Kibbutz: Survival At Risk." In *The Communal Idea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Yaacov Oved, and Menachem Topel. Leiden: Brill (2013), 301-321. See pages 315-318 on the adaptive process in kibbutz.

Butcher, A. Alan. "Fifty Years of Utopian Intentioneering At Twin Oaks Community." In *Communities: Life in Cooperative Culture* (Fall 2017), Issue 176: 27-30.

*Communities: Life in Cooperative Culture*. Periodical published by the Fellowship for Intentional Community (1972-present). See especially the Fall 2017 Issue 176 on Lessons From Historical Utopian Groups.

Egerton, John. *Visions of Utopia: Nashoba, Rugby, and Ruskin, and the 'New Communities' in Tennessee's Past*. Knoxville, Kentucky: The University of Tennessee Press (1977).

Fike, Rupert. *Voices from The Farm: Adventures in Community Living*. Summertown, Tennessee: Book Publishing Company (2012), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Flatt, Cori L. and Peter A. Hoehnle. "Utopia, Ohio, 1844-1847: Seedbed for Three Experiments in Communal Living." In *American Communal Societies Quarterly* (January 2019), vol. 13, no. 1: 3-31.

Fogarty, Robert S. *All Things New: American Communes and Utopian Movements, 1860-1914*. Chicago, Illinois: The University of Chicago Press (1990).

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Levine, Amy-Jill. *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers (2006). See chapter two "From Jewish Sect to Gentile Church," pages 53-86.

Leach, David. *Chasing Utopia: The Future of the Kibbutz in a Divided Israel*. Toronto, Ontario: ECW Press (2016).

Leichman, David and Idit Paz, editors. *Kibbutz: An Alternative Lifestyle*. Ramat Efal, Israel: Yad Tabenkin (1994). See pages 231-277 on the adaptive process.

LeWarne, Charles P. *Utopias On Puget Sound, 1885-1915*. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press (1975).

Metcalf, Bill. *Shared Visions, Shared Lives: Communal Living Around the Globe*. Findhorn, Scotland: Findhorn Press (1996).

Miller, Timothy. *The Hippies and American Values*. Knoxville, Tennessee: The University of Tennessee Press (1991). See pages 85-100 on hippy/countercultural communes. Page 90 notes that “Countercultural communes were means rather than ends,” an assumption of developmental communalism.

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Miller, Timothy. *Communes in America, 1975-2000*, Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press (2019). Discusses developmental communalism on page xx and cites Pitzer’s edited volume *America’s Communal Utopias* on pages 163 and 201.

Oved, Yaacov. *Globalization of Communes: 1950-2010*. London: England: Transaction Press (2013). See paragraph on page 102 that begins “The communes that survived all the transformations that they underwent over the years . . . .” and cites the “theory of ‘developmental communalism’” in its endnote 121 on page 128.

Sargent, Lyman Tower. “Theorizing Intentional Community in the Twenty-First Century.” In *The Communal Idea in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Yaacov Oved, and Menachem Topel. Leiden: Brill (2013), 53-72. Analyzes four theories of intentional communities, including developmental communalism on pages 64-68.

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## V. Sources on the Theoretical and Definitional Dimensions of Communalism and Utopianism

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