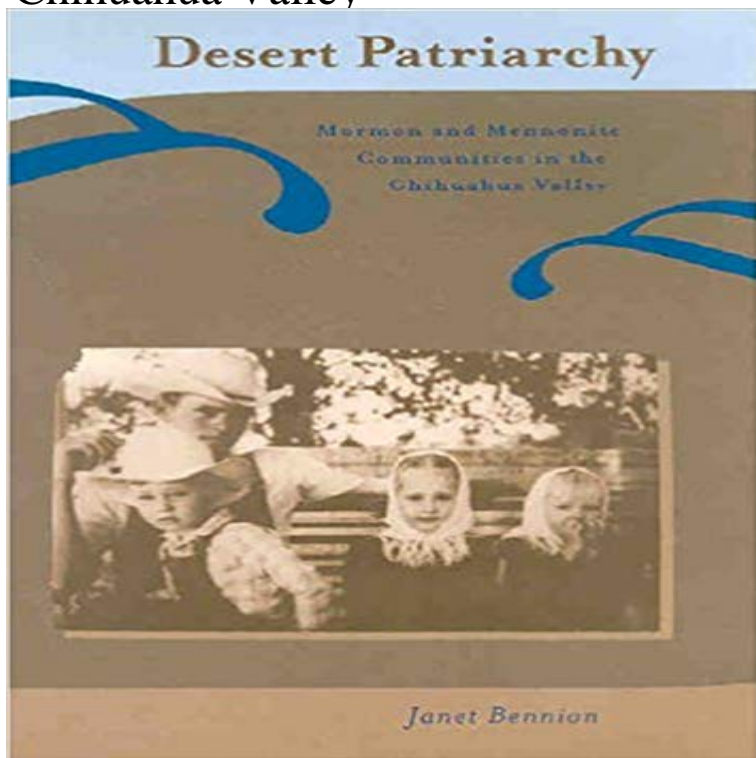


# Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley



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 womens status in patriarchal communities and provides a new way of looking at similar communities worldwide.

Desert patriarchy Mormon and Mennonite communities in the Chihuahua Valley By Janet Bennion. Authors. Fenella Cannell. London SchoolMormonism in Transition: A History of the Latter-day Saints, 18901930. Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley.Desert patriarchy : Mormon and Mennonite communities in the Chihuahua Valley by Janet Bennion( Book ) 5 editions published in 2004 in English and held bydesert patriarchy mormon and mennonite communities in the chihuahua valley. Online Books Database. Doc ID b274d2. Online Books Database.Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite. Communities in the Chihuahua Valley. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2004. Reviewed by Mark Metzler Sawin.On Jan 1, 2008 Catherine Hiebert Kerst (and others) published: Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley by JanetDesert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihauhua the Chihuahua fundamentalist colonies by explaining that she, too, is a desert rat. The Hardcover of the Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley by Janet Bennion at Barnes & Noble.Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley More than a theoretical analysis, Desert Patriarchy provides an intimate glimpse into the daily Sawin, Mark Metzler (2005) Desert Patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite Communities in the Chihuahua Valley by Janet Bennion, BYU. Janet, 1964 Desert patriarchy: Mormon and Mennonite communities in the Chihuahua Valley / Janet Bennion. p. cm. Includes bibliographical references (p. )Desert patriarchy : Mormon and Mennonite communities in the Chihuahua Valley. Responsibility: Janet Bennion. Imprint: Tucson : University of Arizona Press,