



SMALL TOWN AMERICA

A Narrative History 1620-The Present
Richard Lingeman

Small Town America A Narrative History 1620 The Present

**Daniel Joseph Monti, Michael Ian
Borer, Lyn C. Macgregor**



Small Town America A Narrative History 1620 The Present:

Small Town America Richard R. Lingeman, 1981 **Small-Town America** Robert Wuthnow, 2015-05-26 A revealing examination of small town life More than thirty million Americans live in small out of the way places Many of them could have joined the vast majority of Americans who live in cities and suburbs They could live closer to more lucrative careers and convenient shopping a wider range of educational opportunities and more robust health care But they have opted to live differently In *Small Town America* we meet factory workers shop owners retirees teachers clergy and mayors residents who show neighborliness in small ways but who also worry about everything from school closings and their children s futures to the ups and downs of the local economy Drawing on more than seven hundred in depth interviews in hundreds of towns across America and three decades of census data Robert Wuthnow shows the fragility of community in small towns He covers a host of topics including the symbols and rituals of small town life the roles of formal and informal leaders the social role of religious congregations the perception of moral and economic decline and the myriad ways residents in small towns make sense of their own lives Wuthnow also tackles difficult issues such as class and race abortion homosexuality and substance abuse *Small Town America* paints a rich panorama of individuals who reside in small communities finding that for many people living in a small town is an important part of self identity

Real Politics Jean Bethke Elshtain, 2000-03-10 One of America s foremost public intellectuals Jean Bethke Elshtain has been on the frontlines in the most hotly contested and deeply divisive issues of our time Now in *Real Politics* Elshtain gives further proof of her willingness to speak her mind courting disagreement and even censure from those who prefer their ideologies neat At the center of Elshtain s work is a passionate concern with the relationship between political rhetoric and political action For Elshtain politics is a sphere of concrete responsibility Political speech should therefore approach the richness of actual lives and commitments rather than present impossible utopias In her essays Elshtain finds in the writings of V clav Havel Hannah Arendt and Albert Camus a language appropriate to the complexity of everyday life and politics and she critiques philosophers and writers who distance us from a concrete embodied world She argues against those repressive strains within contemporary feminism which insist that families and even sexual differentiation are inherently oppressive Along the way she challenges an ideology of victimization that too often loses sight of individual victims in its pursuit of abstract goals Elshtain reaffirms the quirky and by no means simple pleasures of small town life as a microcosm of the human condition and considers the current crisis in American education and its consequences for democracy Beyond exploring the details of political life over the past two decades *Real Politics* advocates a via media politics that avoids unacceptable extremes and serves as a model for responsible political discourse Throughout her diverse and insightful writings Elshtain champions a civic philosophy that tends to the dignity of everyday life as a democratic imperative of the first order Jean Bethke Elshtain is a person of rare intellect The moral wisdom that pervades these essays reminds us that when all is said and done politics is about the life and death of real

people who are anything but abstractions Her erudition is remarkable but equally stunning is her eye for the significant What she is so good at is helping us see the moral and political significance of the everyday Stanley Hauerwas Duke University Real Politics serves as a forceful reminder that Jean Elshtain has been dealing with the real world in twenty five years of powerful essaying Transcending ideological categories she writes out of hope that human beings can enjoy those capacities of reason and faith which make them human It is a pleasure to be reintroduced to her sustained intelligence Alan Wolfe Boston University

Local Glories Ann Satterthwaite, 2016-02-23 By 1900 opera houses were everywhere but in the twentieth century radio and movies and later television and changing tastes made these opera houses seem obsolete Some were demolished while others languished for decades until stalwart revivers discovered them again in the 1970s By considering states with distinctly different histories principally New York Maine Nebraska Vermont and Colorado Ann Satterthwaite explores the creative social and communal roles of the thousands of opera houses that flourished in small towns across the country

Democracy's Schools Johann N. Neem, 2017-08 The unknown history of American public education At a time when Americans are debating the future of public education Johann N Neem tells the inspiring story of how and why Americans built a robust public school system in the decades between the Revolution and the Civil War It's a story in which ordinary people in towns across the country worked together to form districts and build schoolhouses and reformers sought to expand tax support and give every child a liberal education By the time of the Civil War most northern states had made common schools free and many southern states were heading in the same direction Americans made schooling a public good Yet back then like today Americans disagreed over the kind of education needed who should pay for it and how schools should be governed Neem explores the history and meaning of these disagreements As Americans debated teachers and students went about the daily work of teaching and learning Neem takes us into the classrooms of yore so that we may experience public schools from the perspective of the people whose daily lives were most affected by them Ultimately Neem concludes public schools encouraged a diverse people to see themselves as one nation By studying the origins of America's public schools Neem urges us to focus on the defining features of democratic education promoting equality nurturing human beings preparing citizens and fostering civic solidarity

Building The Dream Gwendolyn Wright, 2012-05-09 For Gwendolyn Wright the houses of America are the diaries of the American people They create a fascinating chronicle of the way we have lived and a reflection of every political economic or social issue we have been concerned with Why did plantation owners build uniform cabins for their slaves Why were all the walls in nineteenth century tenements painted white Why did the parlor suddenly disappear from middle class houses at the turn of the century How did the federal highway system change the way millions of Americans raised their families Building the Dream introduces the parade of people policies and ideologies that have shaped the course of our daily lives by shaping the rooms we have grown up in In the row houses of colonial Philadelphia the luxury apartments of New York City the prefab houses of Levittown and

the public housing towers of Chicago Wright discovers revealing clues to our past and a new way of looking at such contemporary issues as integration sustainable energy the needs of the elderly and how we define family *Urban People and Places* Daniel Joseph Monti,Michael Ian Borer,Lyn C. Macgregor,2014-02-10 Providing a thorough and comprehensive survey of the contemporary urban world that is accessible to students *Urban People and Places The Sociology of Cities* Suburbs and Towns will give balanced treatment to both the process by which cities are built i e urbanization and the ways of life practiced by people that live and work in more urban places i e urbanism unlike most core texts in this area Whereas most texts focus on the socio economic causes of urbanization this text analyses the cultural component how the physical construction of places is in part a product of cultural beliefs ideas and practices and also how the culture of those who live work and play in various places is shaped structured and controlled by the built environment Inasmuch as the primary focus will be on the United States global discussion is composed with an eye toward showing how U S cities suburbs and towns are different and alike from their counterparts in Africa Asia and Central and South America *After the Gold Rush* Ralph Mann,1982 A Stanford University Press classic This book is a study of the two largest California gold mining towns Grass Valley and Nevada City from 1849 to 1870 This is an analysis of mining towns based on the premise that Western American history is largely an urban history and the aftermath of the Gold Rush of 1849 offers a unique opportunity to investigate the rapid development of town society *Main Street Movies* Martin L. Johnson,2018-01-23 See yourself in the movies Prior to the advent of the home movie camera and the ubiquitousness of the camera phone there was the local film This cultural phenomenon produced across the country from the 1890s to the 1950s gave ordinary people a chance to be on the silver screen without leaving their hometowns Through these movies residents could see themselves in the same theaters where they saw major Hollywood motion pictures Traveling filmmakers plied their trade in small towns and cities where these films were received by locals as being part of the larger cinema experience With access to the rare film clips under discussion *Main Street Movies* documents the diversity and longevity of local film production and examines how itinerant filmmakers responded to industry changes to keep sponsors and audiences satisfied From town pride films in the 1910s to Hollywood knockoffs in the 1930s local films captured not just images of local people and places but also ideas about the function and meaning of cinema that continue to resonate today **Free to All** Abigail A. Van Slyck,1998-07-20 Familiar landmarks in hundreds of American towns Carnegie libraries have shaped the public library experience of generations of Americans and today seen far from controversial In *Free to All* however Abigail Van Slyck shows that the classical facades and symmetrical plans of these buildings often mask the complex and contentious circumstances of their construction and use *American Empire* Joshua Freeman,2013-08-06 A landmark history of postwar America and the second volume in the Penguin History of the United States series edited by Eric Foner In this momentous work acclaimed labor historian Joshua B Freeman presents an epic portrait of the United States in the latter half of the twentieth century revealing a nation galvanized by change even

as conflict seethed within its borders Beginning in 1945 he charts the astounding rise of the labor movement and its pitched struggle with the bastions of American capitalism in the 1940s and 50s untangling the complicated threads between the workers agenda and that of the civil rights and women s movements Through the lens of civil rights the Cold War struggle and the labor movement American Empire teaches us something profound about our past while illuminating the issues that continue to animate American political discourse today

Main Street in Crisis Catherine McNicol Stock,1997-09-01 This study of class during the Great Depression is the first to examine a relatively neglected geographical area the northern plains states of North and South Dakota from a social and cultural perspective Surveying the values and ideals of the old midd

Main Street Public Library Wayne A. Wiegand,2011-10-02 The United States has more public libraries than it has McDonald s restaurants By any measure the American public library is a heavily used and ubiquitous institution Popular thinking identifies the public library as a neutral agency that protects democratic ideals by guarding against censorship as it makes information available to people from all walks of life Among librarians this idea is known as the library faith But is the American public library as democratic as it appears to be In Main Street Public Library eminent library historian Wayne Wiegand studies four emblematic small town libraries in the Midwest from the late nineteenth century through the federal Library Service Act of 1956 and shows that these institutions served a much different purpose than is so often perceived Rather than acting as neutral institutions that are vital to democracy the libraries of Sauk Centre Minnesota Osage Iowa Rhinelander Wisconsin and Lexington Michigan were actually mediating community literary values and providing a public space for the construction of social harmony These libraries and the librarians who ran them were often just as susceptible to the political and social pressures of their time as any other public institution By analyzing the collections of all four libraries and revealing what was being read and why certain acquisitions were passed over Wiegand challenges both traditional perceptions and professional rhetoric about the role of libraries in our small town communities While the American public library has become essential to its local community it is for reasons significantly different than those articulated by the library faith

Settling the Canadian-American West, 1890-1915 John William Bennett,1995-01-01 This anthropological history tells the story of homesteading and community organization in the Canadian American West through personal reminiscences and locally written histories John W Bennett and Seena B Kohl interpret those stories through the lenses of history and social science and they present a view of settlement experience as one phase of the evolving postfrontier society and culture of western North America Settling the Canadian American West 1890 1915 contains a synthesis of Canadian and U S settlement experiences giving to the extent possible equal space to both sides of the international boundary The experiences of people in these adjacent territories were virtually identical with emigrant populations from the same countries and socioeconomic strata Among other aspects of the homesteading experience the authors explore the interactive adaptation that developed in the West Networks of mutual aid reverently remembered by the voices found in these pages

eased the inevitable hardships **American Far West in the Twentieth Century** Earl S. Pomeroy,2008-10-21 In this richly insightful survey that represents the culmination of decades of research a leading western specialist argues that the unique history of the American West did not end in the year 1900 as is commonly assumed but was shaped as much if not more by events and innovations in the twentieth century Earl Pomeroy gathers copious information on economic political social intellectual and business issues thoughtfully evaluates it and draws a new and more nuanced portrait of the West than has ever been depicted before Pomeroy mines extensive published and unpublished sources to show how the post 1900 West charted a path that was influenced by but separate from the rest of the country and the world He deals not only with the West s transition from an agricultural to an urban region but also with the important contributions of minority racial and ethnic groups and women in that transformation Pomeroy describes a modern West increasingly urban transnational and multicultural that has overcome much of the isolation that challenged it at an earlier time His final book is nothing short of the definitive source on that West Landscape and Images John R. Stilgoe,2015-02-12 John Stilgoe is just looking around This is more difficult than it sounds particularly in our mediated age when advances in both theory and technology too often seek to replace the visual evidence before our own eyes rather than complement it We are surrounded by landscapes charged with our past and yet from our earliest schooldays we are instructed not to stare out the window Someone who stops to look isn t only a rarity he or she is suspect Landscape and Images records a lifetime spent observing America s constructed landscapes Stilgoe s essays follow the eclectic trains of thought that have resulted from his observation from the postcard preference for sunsets over sunrises to the concept of teen geography to the unwillingness of Americans to walk up and down stairs In Stilgoe s hands the subject of jack o lanterns becomes an occasion to explore centuries old concepts of boundaries and trespassing and to examine why this originally pagan symbol has persisted into our own age Even something as mundane as putting the cat out before going to bed is traced back to fears of unwatched animals and an untended frontier fireplace Stilgoe ponders the forgotten connections between politics and painted landscapes and asks why a country whose vast majority lives less than a hundred miles from a coast nonetheless looks to the rural Midwest for the classic image of itself At times breathtaking in their erudition the essays collected here are as meticulously researched as they are elegantly written Stilgoe s observations speak to specialists whether they be artists historians or environmental designers as well as to the common reader Our landscapes constitute a fascinating history of accident and intent The proof says Stilgoe is all around us

At Home Bill Bryson,2010-10-05 A fascinating work of what you might call domestic science our homes how they work and the fascinating history of how they got that way Bill Bryson and his family live in a Victorian parsonage in a part of England where nothing of any great significance has happened since the Romans decamped Yet one day he began to consider how very little he knew about the ordinary things of life as found in that comfortable home To remedy this he formed the idea of journeying about his house from room to room to write a history of the world without leaving home The bathroom provides

the occasion for a history of hygiene the bedroom sex death and sleep the kitchen nutrition and the spice trade Bryson shows how each has shaped the evolution of private life Whatever happens in the world he demonstrates ends up in our house in the paint and the pipes and the pillows and every item of furniture **From Warm Center to Ragged Edge** Jon K.

Lauck,2017-06-01 During the half century after the Civil War intellectuals and politicians assumed the Midwest to be the font and heart of American culture Despite the persistence of strong currents of midwestern regionalism during the 1920s and 1930s the region went into eclipse during the post World War II era In the apt language of Minnesota s F Scott Fitzgerald the Midwest slid from being the warm center of the republic to its ragged edge This book explains the factors that triggered the demise of the Midwest s regionalist energies from anti midwestern machinations in the literary world and the inability of midwestern writers to break through the cultural politics of the era to the growing dominance of a coastal urban culture These developments paved the way for the proliferation of images of the Midwest as flyover country the Rust Belt a staid and decaying region Yet Lauck urges readers to recognize persisting and evolving forms of midwestern identity and to resist the forces that squelch the nation s interior voices **Local Government in Early America** Brian P. Janiskee,2010-03-16

Local Government in Early America is a concise and thought provoking exploration of the American desire for political participation most notably in the town hall meeting A product of early New England democracy this form of direct local participation remains one of the most celebrated yet feared institutions in our political life Depending upon one s political perspective on the issue at hand a lively town hall meeting can be the glorious epitome of grassroots activism or the wretched embodiment of reactionary zeal For all of the media attention devoted to the conservative revolt against health care reform at town hall meetings across the country the political right is late to game on local activism From resolutions opposed to the Patriot Act or the declaration of nuclear free zones in cities the political left has used the rhetorical power of the local political pulpit to great effect for many years All of this is possible because of the manner in which local governments were constructed during the colonial period Author Brian Janiskee details the origins of our local system by examining key characteristics of local colonial political life including what key founders like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson had to say about the role of our villages towns and cities in our complex system of government Through this timely analysis of our political heritage Janiskee may cause observers to reevaluate the phrase all politics is local Indeed it may be the case that all local politics is national

Rocket States: Atomic Weaponry and the Cultural Imagination Fabienne Collignon,2014-07-31 Rocket States crosses the disciplines of Cold War Studies American Literature American Studies and Cultural Studies The particular attraction of this study lies in the combination of its range close textual and visual analysis of the correlations between land and weaponry set firmly within its political and cultural contexts with its unique analytical approach The book offers a synthesis between history theories of technology theories of space popular culture literary study and military science It illuminates a variety of literary texts from key writers and thinkers such as Pynchon Stephen King Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe while also invoking

figures like Nikola Tesla James Webb Batman and Ronald Reagan Organised topographically according to how missile technology manifests itself differently in particular locations Rocket States s geographical targets are Colorado Kansas Cape Canaveral and New York variously titled Excavation Preservation Evacuation and Transmission It advances through these states roughly chronologically beginning in the late 1940s and early 1950s and coming to an end in the first part of the 21st century Collignon s argument is concerned with identifying the recurring figures and fantasies of the Cold War the dome or parabola as sheltering techno form the fictions of total security adapting to constantly changing targeting strategies gadget love closed freezing worlds As such Rocket States analyses by what processes the Cold War is frequently literalised in its weapons installations and how these facilities in turn shape dreams of containment survival escape techno supremacy

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