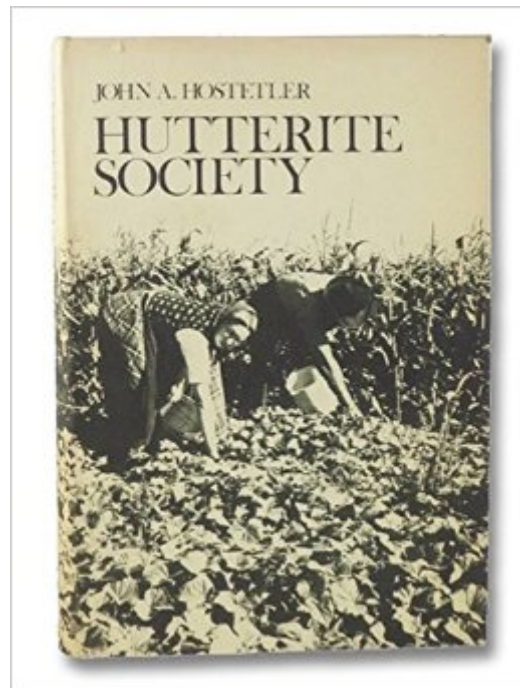


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# Hutterite Society



## Synopsis

Written to mark the centennial of the Hutterites' arrival in North America, John Hostetler's acclaimed study traces their history from the founding of their society over four centuries ago to the early 1970s, and analyzes their social and cultural organization, the difficulties of communal living, and their strategies for survival. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I once visited a Hutterite colony, and when I saw this book I at once decided I had to read it. It is written by a sociologist who views his subjects quite favorably. My reaction as I read was: "I am glad I am not a Hutterite." But if one was indoctrinated as they are from earliest childhood, I suppose one would be accepting of the restrictions which permeate their life. For example, toilet training frequently begins at three months but always by the time the child can sit alone. Such a regimen probably affects one's entire life, and accounts for the low rate of dropouts from Hutterite life style. The book is a 1974 book, and at the time there were 21,521 Hutterites in 229 colonies, compared to 1265 who came to this hemisphere in 1874. Researching on the Internet I note that there are some 38,000 in 1999. A colony branches out into a daughter colony in about 14 years. If you are interested in viewing a world different from anything you know you should read this book.

I am only beginning this book, it is good, but not flashy. This information was a US government funded study that stretched into the iron curtain during the cold war of the 1970s. The Hutterites

are a pacifist, communal, Christian denomination, that has survived unimaginable persecution for their non-conformity, from over a thousand executions in Zurich to even the hands of the US government during WWI, where as US citizens on US soil, were tortured to death by the US Army. This caused the most recent flight from the USA to Canada. In their second most recent flight of 1874 from Russia to America, they arrived with over 800 members, but immediately split leaving only about 400 members, enough to start 3 settlements. From that tiny number they currently have a population of 40,000 with hundreds of settlements. This book has excellent information and I will leave you with the statistic that I stumbled upon that made me need to know more: Canadian businesses extremely dislike these people, but Hutterites are five times more productive per acre than the average farmer, 5 x more productive. AND there were laws on the books in Canada specifically forbidding Hutterites to buy land. Greedy people have an extreme case of murderous resentment and envy against Hutterites.

This book attempts to give a glance into Hutterite life, and succeeds admirably. However, for one who is searching for God's will in their life, what information there is about Hutterite religious beliefs is intermingled with the description of their daily life. Although this book is written as a book for sociologists and as a study of a society, it is still quite readable.

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