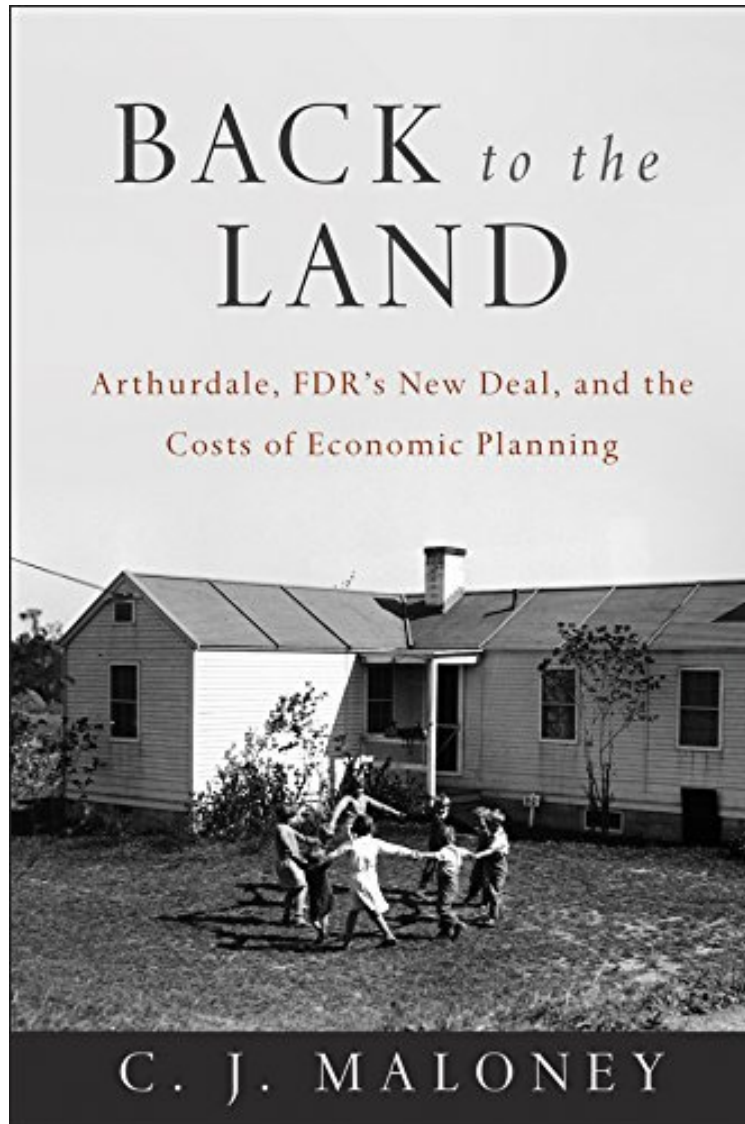


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Back to the Land: Arthurdale, FDR's New Deal, and the Costs of Economic Planning

C. J. Maloney

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C. J. Maloney : **Back to the Land: Arthurdale, FDR's New Deal, and the Costs of Economic Planning** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Back to the Land: Arthurdale, FDR's New Deal, and the Costs of Economic Planning:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not bad, not bad at all. By Daniel Brady The worst thing about this book is that it's too much of a once-over-lightly - the reader is given some anecdotal evidence of why the results were as they were, and some specific results, but largely, it's an overview, telling us the results of what happened, and why

those results could, in retrospect, have been predicted, but there's not nearly enough reporting on the actual events in Arthurdale. It's as if the author, having been charmed by the residents past and present, was reluctant to go into detail about the actual events of history, unless he was reporting about the administrators' actions. As an example, the residents had to petition for space to hold a beer-and-oysters party, and that permission was denied. The reader is left to imagine the residents' reaction to that denial, or the reason the permission was denied. I expect that there were a plentitude of other incidents that were never mentioned that specifically, leading to the results and reactions that are reported in detail. That said, it's a clear, engagingly-written overview, shining a light onto events that won't show up in any American History textbook, and is well worth the read. The author is very clear about this being a first book; the promise he shows here makes me interested in his second book, regardless of the topic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mostly unknown history By Customer Interesting, but doesn't capture my interest. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reading this book made me feel like I was live and fully engaged in this depression ... By Carolyn Hartley Superb details. I'm a fiction writer who places enormous emphasis on historical details. Reading this book made me feel like I was live and fully engaged in this depression era.

How New Deal economic policies played out in the small town of Arthurdale, West Virginia Today, the U.S. government is again moving to embrace New Deal-like economic policies. While much has been written about the New Deal from a macro perspective, little has been written about how New Deal programs played out on the ground. In *Back to the Land*, author CJ Maloney tells the true story of Arthurdale, West Virginia, a town created as a "pet project" of the Roosevelts. Designed to be (in the words of Eleanor Roosevelt) "a human experiment station", she was to create a "New American" citizen who would embrace a collectivist form of life. This book tells the story of what happened to the people resettled in Arthurdale and how the policies implemented there shaped America as we know it. Arthurdale was the foundation upon which modern America was built. Details economic history at the micro level, revealing the true effects of New Deal economic policies on everyday life Addresses the pros and cons of federal government economic policies Describes how good intentions and grand ideas can result in disastrous consequences, not only in purely materialistic terms but, most important, in respect for the rule of law *Back to the Land* is a valuable addition to economic and historical literature.