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## New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58

*Sherry B. Ortner*

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**Sherry B. Ortner : New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quite a Read! By Elizabeth T. Picker I found Sherry B. Ortner's book to be very interesting. I primarily purchased the book because I was friendly with Sherry in high school. I went to high school one town over from Weequahic High School. Irvington. Most of my friends were from her area. We belonged to the same club, a group of girls named the Amoroso's. So I thought I have to read this book! I have not finished it. For me it is very technical! I understand the premise; I believe I could carry on a conversation somewhat intelligently.

I will have to read this very slowly. There are a lot of words. I believe Sherry to be brilliant! With major research her own inherent knowledge she has produced an excellent reading of a time that I was there to see be a part of. Although she did not mention most of the real names, I did try to figure out some of the people she was writing about. No, didn't know a one. I will continue to read enjoy be very proud of Sherry all she has accomplished! Then I will look to read her other books! Thanks Sherry!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I felt like in some parts the book was racist

By Angela Partida I felt like in some parts the book was racist, but according to the author that is what was going on at the time. I had Ortner as a professor in college and this book helps describe what is going on with capitalism in the United states in the period described as the beginning of American capitalism as well as the beginning of Modernity. I purchased the book as an e-book it was a simple read but some books you can follow along with the hard copy because it gives you a page number this book doesnt give you that option. Also make sure to look back to the tables they are important.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Readable sociological study of a 1958 high school class over 40 years

By Momcat Scholarly but very readable study of the 1958 graduating class of a New Jersey high school, focusing on the social, demographic, and historical movements which brought their parents there and which shaped their relationships and social classes during school and afterwards and places their stories within the context of the larger social and historical movements of the late 20th century.

Pioneering anthropologist Sherry B. Ortner is renowned for her work on the Sherpas of Nepal. Now she turns her attention homeward to examine how social class is lived in the United States and, specifically, within her own peer group. In *New Jersey Dreaming*, Ortner returns to her Newark roots to present an in-depth look at Weequahic High School's Class of 1958, of which she was a member. She explores her classmates' recollections of the neighborhood and the high school, also written about in the novels of Philip Roth, Weequahic High School's most famous alum. Ortner provides a chronicle of the journey of her classmates from the 1950s into the 1990s, following the movement of a striking number of them from modest working- and middle-class backgrounds into the wealthy upper-middle or professional/managerial class. Ortner tracked down nearly all 304 of her classmates. She interviewed about 100 in person and spoke with most of the rest by phone, recording her classmates' vivid memories of time, place, and identity. Ortner shows how social class affected people's lives in many hidden and unexamined ways. She also demonstrates that the Class of '58's extreme upward mobility must be understood in relation to the major identity movements of the twentieth century—the campaign against anti-Semitism, the Civil Rights movement, and feminism. A multisited study combining field research with an interdisciplinary analytical framework, *New Jersey Dreaming* is a masterly integration of developments at the vanguard of contemporary anthropology. Engaging excerpts from Ortner's field notes are interspersed throughout the book. Whether recording the difficulties and pleasures of studying one's own peer group, the cultures of driving in different parts of the country, or the contrasting experiences of appointment-making in Los Angeles and New York, they provide a rare glimpse into the actual doing of ethnographic research.

"*New Jersey Dreaming* shatters myths about the history, culture, and social relations of our society by placing ethnicity in a class context, by historicizing Jewish upward mobility, and by presenting a new framework for understanding identity and power that is firmly rooted in the practices of everyday life."—George Lipsitz, author of *American Studies in a Moment of Danger*