



## SOCIAL STRUCTURES & SYSTEMS of BELIEF



When we think about intentional community, we usually consider social cohesiveness as being the most important aspect. Many factors affect this issue of interpersonal commitment, and most of them can be described as ranging from greater to lesser degrees of commonality.



### PLURALIST-to-UNIFIED BELIEFS CONTINUUM:

Beliefs include spirituality, religion and philosophy, but not economic processes. Thus, very different belief structures (and political structures) can have the same economic system. The belief structures of "Pluralism" and of "Few Common Beliefs," may use either consensus or democratic decision-making processes. Communities with "Uniform Beliefs" often have authoritarian governments.



**Pluralist Belief Structure:** Secular; Open society; Inclusive; Integrationist; Expressed individuality; Participatory. Examples: cohousing, land trust, egalitarian community.



**Few Common Beliefs:** Group has a shared belief but is tolerant of differences. Ex. Ecovillages (ecology), Kibbutz Artzi (Zionism).



**Unified Belief Structure:** Dogmatic; Closed/Class Society; Exclusive; Isolationist; Suppressed Individuality; Authoritarian. Examples: Catholic Monasteries, Hutterites, Kibbutz Dati (Zionism & Judism).

