

## Erewhon



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### ***Reviews***

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*(Rebecca Bechtelar)*

## EREWHON



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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Following in the tradition of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels, Samuel Butler published Erewhon privately in 1872. Arguably the first anti-Utopian or dystopian novel, Erewhon anticipates later and better known works such as Aldous Huxley's Brave New World and George Orwell's 1984. Whereas More and other utopianists were primarily interested in attacking society's ills and making the world a better place, the anti-utopians engaged primarily in either satire of the society in which they lived or in making dire predictions about the dismal fate that awaits humanity. Butler is most decidedly in the former category, since he proves in not only Erewhon but also his more famous work, the semi-autobiographical novel, The Way of All Flesh, that his main concern is in attacking the complacency and hypocrisy he saw infecting Victorian society. Like More's island of Utopia, Butler's Erewhon is a remote kingdom, not to be found on any map, which is discovered by the narrator of the novel (biographers of Butler have assumed it is modeled on a part of New Zealand, which anyone who has viewed the Lord of the Rings movies can attest has some spectacular landscapes). Cut off from the rest of the world, the citizens of Erewhon live according to their own rules and dictates. Butler breaks from the tradition of creating an idealized world in favor of a more realistic society. In Butler's world money, the rich, the poor, and even a monarchy still exist. It is when we notice strong parallels between Erewhon and the members of Victorian society that we start to see Butler's true purpose. Hypocrisy is rampant in Erewhon,...



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