

# California

Lakewood exists because at a given time in a different economy it seemed an efficient idea to provide population density for the mall and a labor pool for the Douglas plant.

There are a lot of places like  
Lakewood in California.

They were California's mill towns,  
breeder towns for the boom.

When times were good and there was money to spread around, these were the towns that proved Marx wrong, that managed to increase the proletariat and simultaneously, by calling it middle class, to co-opt it.

**Joan Didion, "Trouble in Lakewood"**