

# Religions of America

## NEW RELIGIONS FOR A NEW LAND: TRACE RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENTS AND MOVEMENTS UNIQUE TO AMERICA

Founded on the ideal of freedom, North America had a unique role as a birthplace for and spread of new religious movements. This new land provided religious dissenters the opportunity to originate or significantly reshape movements that would become cornerstones of faith for years to come. *Religions of America* presents scholars and researchers with more than 660,000 pages of content that follow the development of religions and religious movements born in the U.S. from 1820 to 1990. Derived from numerous collections, most notably the American Religions Collection at the University of California, Santa Barbara, *Religions of America* traces the history and unique characteristics of movements through manuscripts, pamphlets, newsletters, ephemera, and visuals.



# ESTEEMED RESOURCES PROVIDE IN-DEPTH RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

This new resource focuses on nineteenth-century movements from Pentecostalism and Mormonism to modern Judeo-Christian organizations (Christian Science, Messianic Judaism) and non-Christian New Thought and Neopagan religions. It also provides robust coverage of alternative, lesser-known, but culturally important religious traditions, including New Age, Neopagan, Wicca, neo-Christian movements (Adventism, Christian Science), and Christian Identity and Fundamentalist movements.

*Religions of America* draws on a variety of collections, including the largest multi-religious collection of its kind, assembled by J. Gordon Melton, the premiere scholar of twentieth-century American and Canadian religious life.

Cross searchable with other *Gale Primary Sources* digital archives, *Religions of America* is comprised of several key collections:

**The American Religions Collection** includes materials from Hebrew Christians and Pentecostal groups to Baptist organizations and Grace Gospel organizations. It features serials on neo-Pagan and occult religious traditions as well as important subject files on LGBTQ churches, church-and-state controversies, women and female spirituality, and political extremism.

**The Shaker Collection** documents the life and history of Shakers from several communities during the eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Content includes correspondence, diaries, journals, photographs, community laws, church covenants, hymnals, spiritual communications, inspirational writings and drawings, lectures and speeches, as well as writings by and about members.

**The FBI Files on Jonestown, Moorish Science Temple of America, and the Branch Davidians** explores the Free Peoples Temple in Jonestown; the writings and publications and activities of Drew Ali, founder of the Moorish Science Temple of America in Newark, NJ; and, Branch Davidian compound negotiation transcripts.

**The Hall-Hoag Collection of Dissenting and Extremist Printed Propaganda** from Brown University presents rare materials on Christian identity movements from its founding in the late 1940s until the 1990s.

**Utah and the Mormons**, based on materials from the Western Americana Collection at Yale University, includes periodicals, doctrinal, and controversial works that are pro- and anti-Mormon as well as contemporary works relating to the Latter-Day Saints.

## OPTIMIZED FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Explore this collection more deeply through Gale's *Digital Scholar Lab*—a research experience that integrates an unmatched depth and breadth of digital primary source content with the most popular digital humanities tools, to generate visualizations and provide opportunities for new discoveries and improved outcomes.

## FEATURES AND TOOLS

### Textual Analysis Tools

Identify and visualize patterns, trends, and relationships to explore content in new ways.

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