

# The Religious Crisis of the 1960s: A Pivotal Moment in American History



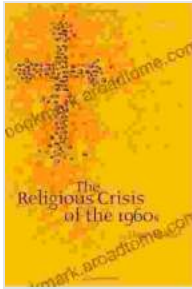
**The Religious Crisis of the 1960s** by Hugh McLeod

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The 1960s was a time of great social and cultural change in the United States. The civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the counterculture all had a profound impact on American society. Religion was not immune to these changes. In fact, the 1960s saw a major religious crisis that would have a lasting impact on American religious life.

There were a number of factors that contributed to the religious crisis of the 1960s. One factor was the Second Vatican Council, which was held from 1962 to 1965. The council introduced a number of reforms to the Catholic Church, including changes to the liturgy, the use of vernacular languages in Mass, and the role of the laity. These reforms were met with resistance from some traditionalist Catholics, who felt that they were undermining the authority of the Church.

Another factor that contributed to the religious crisis of the 1960s was the rise of secularization. Secularization is the process by which religion becomes less important in society. This process was accelerated in the 1960s by the growing popularity of science and technology, which led many people to question the need for religion. In addition, the counterculture movement of the 1960s promoted a rejection of traditional values, including religious values.

The religious crisis of the 1960s had a number of consequences. One consequence was a decline in church attendance and membership. In the 1950s, more than 90% of Americans identified as Christian. By the end of the 1960s, that number had dropped to 70%. Another consequence of the religious crisis was a rise in religious pluralism. In the 1960s, there was a growing acceptance of non-Christian religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism. In addition, there was a rise in new religious movements, such as the Jesus Movement and the New Age movement.

The religious crisis of the 1960s was a major turning point in American religious history. It led to a decline in the importance of religion in American society, and it also led to a rise in religious pluralism. The effects of the religious crisis of the 1960s are still felt today.

### **The Impact of the Religious Crisis of the 1960s**

The religious crisis of the 1960s had a profound impact on American society. It led to a decline in the importance of religion in American culture, and it also led to a rise in religious pluralism. These changes have had a lasting impact on American society.

One of the most visible impacts of the religious crisis of the 1960s was the decline in church attendance. In the 1950s, more than 90% of Americans identified as Christian. By the end of the 1960s, that number had dropped to 70%. This decline in church attendance has continued in the decades since the 1960s. Today, less than half of Americans identify as Christian.

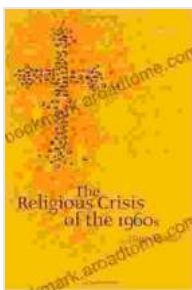
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new religious movements, such as the Jesus Movement and the New Age movement. This religious pluralism has continued in the decades since the 1960s. Today, there are more than 3,000 different religions practiced in the United States.

The religious crisis of the 1960s also had a significant impact on American politics. The decline in religious affiliation and the rise in religious pluralism have made it more difficult for politicians to appeal to religious voters. As a result, politicians are less likely to take positions that are based on religious beliefs. This has led to a more secularized political landscape in the United States.

The religious crisis of the 1960s was a major turning point in American history. It led to a decline in the importance of religion in American society, and it also led to a rise in religious pluralism. These changes have had a lasting impact on American society, and they are still being felt today.

The religious crisis of the 1960s was a complex event with a number of causes and consequences. It was a time of great change and upheaval in American religious life, and it had a lasting impact on American society. The effects of the religious crisis of the 1960s are still felt today.



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