

Religion- Overview

Post WW2 the drift away from organised religion in pre-war days was reversed

Church 49% in 1940

Membership soared

69% in 1960

20% from 1940 to 1960

Grew most rapidly in 1950's

Declined by 6% in 1970's

Increased spending on church buildings

\$26 million in 1945

over \$400 million in 1950

over \$1,000 million in 1960

Influence of Religion - Examples

'Ten commandments' broke box office records

Semi-religious songs became hits (Go Tell it on the Mountain, US #33 pop, 1964)

'In God We Trust' was added to currency in 1957

1954, Time Magazine stated that the Christian Faith was 'back at the centre of things'

Religion- Overview (cont)

Influence of Religion - Reasons

Cold War tensions: Communism was a "a great sinister anti-christian movement"

Reasons

Christianity was seen as a badge of patriotism

An increasing need to belong in a rapidly changing society

Churches used modern technology

Evangelical

Refers to Protestant groups which stress the authority of the Bible, missionary work and a personal relationship with Christ.

Spread their message through preaching.

Televangelists

Evangelical preachers who used mass media

1,2000 religious radio stations

36 religious tv stations

also used mass mailing and advertisements

preached against american materialism

Evangelical Preachers: Billy Graham

Born N. Carolina, Educated at Bob Jones University

Ordained a Baptist minister in 1939

1949 held successful mission in LA

Set up Bill Graham Evangelistic Association

Began in a one room office with a secretary in 1959

1958 had 200 working out of a 4 storey building

Used advertising, publicity campaigns and a staff of specialists (prayer leaders, singers and counsellors)

He developed religion as a form of mass entertainment

Preached to over 200 million in 185 countries

In NY, 1957 his 16 week crusade was attended by 2 million people

Time Magazine called him the 'Pope of Protestant America'

Differed from conservative fundamentalists

"I dont think Jesus or the Apostles took sides in the political arenas of the day"

Used mass media

TV + Radio programmes: Hour of decision, broadcasted weekly, started in 1957

Newspaper column published in papers across the US

Wrote 25 books: Peace with God, The Jesus Generation and How to be Born Again

Was consulted by many presidents: Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford

1950's: Extremely anti-communist

1960's: supported peace with Russia and China

He and his wife were awarded the Congressional Medal in 1996 for "Outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equality, family, philanthropy and religion"



By Iwannabeabee

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Evangelical Preachers: Billy Graham (cont)

Was never tainted by a sexual or a financial scandal

Evangelical Preachers

Oral Roberts owned a large ranch and private plane

had a tv and radio show

a university in his name

collected \$50 million a year

Jimmy Baker Damaged the evangelical movement in the 80's

He and his wife (Tammy Faye Baker) hosted Praise the Lord Club

Both we're forced to resign due to Jimmy's sex scandal with his secretary

He later went to prison for stealing from his church to fund his life style

Jimmy Swaggart Confessed on air to being with a prostitute in 1988

Protestant Church

Methodists were overtaken by Baptists

1960's: Church attendance fell from its peak but was still high

1970's: Over 60% of Americans were still active church members

This contrasts to the 10-15% in England and France

Catholic Church

US had the largest national grouping of Catholics

Members: Grew from 29 to 50 million

This was helped by immigration from Latin America

Cardinals: grew from 4 to 11 million

General acceptance of changes brought by Vatican 11

Difficulties in 1960's

'Humane Vitae' - resitance - Pope Paul VI's encyclical - banned artifical birth control

Between 1666-69: lost 14,000 nuns

Between 1666-69: 30% reduction in those studying for priesthood

Fundamentalism

A conservative religious movement among Protestants in the US which emphasised the truth of the Bible

Rejected Darwin's theory of evolution

characteristics: patritotic, extereme conservatism, strong in southern states

Leaders were white, upper and middle class

Followers were often working class or lower class

Referred to as the religous right

1977: 70 million described themselves as "born-again Christians"

'The Late Great Planet Earth' - Hal Lindsay - Bestseller in the 70's - theme was the return of jesus to save mankind

Furious with Supreme court rulings- in favour of abortion - teaching of evolution - lack of prayer in schools

This lead to their belief that they had to get active in politics to protect their religion and shape society according to their views

The Moral Majority

Supported strict Christian standards being applied to society

coalition of Christian groups who wanted influence in politics

Sometimes called the silent majority

Organized by JERRY FALWELL from Virginia

His belief "The idea that religion and politics don't mix was invented by the Devil to keep Christians froth running their own country"

His aim 'Bring about a conservative revolution' influential among Southern Baptists

Campaigned against: abortion, divorce, homosexuality, government involvement in education and the equal rights amendment

Christian Coalition led by Pat Robertson were influential in the Republican Party

Favoured Reagan

showed signs of bigotry and anti-semitism

Jewish Community

After 1945: Jewish Community in the Us grew as a result of immigration from Europe

Divided into Reform - Conservative and Orthodox

Worked within the fiance and aided the community with employment

Became powerful in finance, business and politics

Majority voted democratic

Henry Kissinger: Sec of State- Nixon and Ford admin

Madeline Albright: Sec of State - Clinton admin

Influential in policy on Israel and Middle East



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Black Communities

Religion was highly important in black communities

Baptists and Methodists - rural South

Civil Rights was led by religious leaders- MLK - Ralf Abernathy

Islamic

developed among black communities in northern cities

The Black Muslims (The Nation of Islam) 1,000 in 1946

100,000 in 1960

Rejected term negro

Malcom X was the leader

wanted separate black development

Muhammad Ali was a member

Mass Media

The means of communication usually through newspaper, magazines, radio and TV.

Newspapers

The content and circulateion of newspapers was influenced by the coming of TV

No of citizens with more than one daily newspaper dropped 1960: over 80% of cities had only one newspaper

smaller % people bought newspapers

newspapers payed an important role in monitoring government policy Pentagon Papers: Deception about Vietnam War - Reported on by NY Times

Woodward and Bernstein: Watergate - Nixon - Washington Post

Newspapers (cont)

No national newspaper till 1980 US Today

Movies

Popularity were in decline- due to urban to suburban migration

Rise of TV

based in Hollywood

Counteracted with Wide Screens, 3D and stereo sound

new productions aimed at popular taste

Popular taste Westerns- the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Cold War stories- I was a Communist for the FBI

Biblical- Ben Hur

Anti-War - Paths of Glory

Rebellious Youth: Rebel Without a Cause

This failed to reverse decline

Movies were shown on TV

Audience widened in 70's + 80's due to Home Box Office- Pay TV - VHS tapes

Relaxed Hollywood code of conduct = more obscene, violent and secual films - Bonnie and Clyde

Young Directors

Francis Ford Coppola Godfather series

George Lucas Star Wars

Movies (cont)

Growing younger audience attracted back to cinema in 70's + 80's

more independent films

more suburban cineplexes

Television

1948 200,000 families had TV's

1952 15 million

1955 35 million

1960- colour 90% owned a TV

Satellite Transmissions - 1960's Telstar + Early Bird - Made national live broadcasts possible

Linked up with cable to provide specific interest channels MTV + CNN

1970's - cable 70% of homes had cable

Fear of splinerting of society and over saturation "I can see by your eyes friend you're just about gone, fifty-seven channels and nothin' on" Bruce Springsteen



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