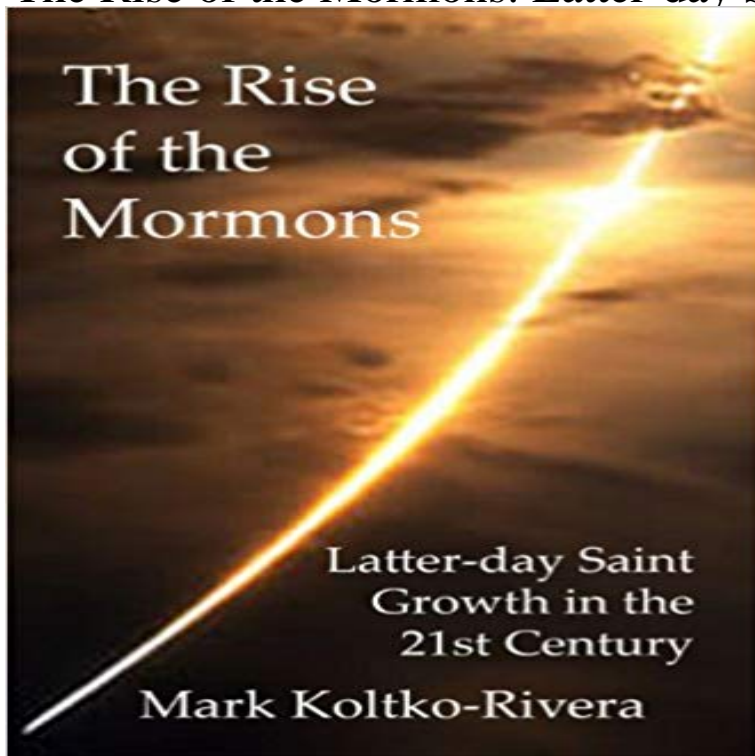


# The Rise of the Mormons: Latter-day Saint Growth in the 21st Century



The Latter-day Saints (LDS/Mormons) will become a global religion with hundreds of millions, or even billions, of followers--within a century. In this book, written for the general public, award-winning social scientist Mark Koltko-Rivera, Ph.D., explains:--how the Mormons grew from a tiny group in 1830s New York to being the fourth-largest church in America as of 2012;--why Mormon growth slowed after 1990--and why it will soon explode, both in the United States and throughout the world;--why Mormon beliefs resonate with society's hopes, fears, aspirations--even obsessions--in ways that can make the LDS faith especially attractive to many people in today's world;--how The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will become the second-largest--or even the largest--church in the United States by 2120;--how this church could become the second-largest religious body in the entire world, with over two billion members, by 2120. Dr. Koltko-Rivera describes what a more Mormon world would look like, and how this faith could fuel a global Renaissance of cultural creativity. He also explains the implications of Mormon growth for the great majority of people who walk other paths. Incl. references, hot links. 5 illustrations, 29 figures, 22 tables, 2 charts. Chapters: Intro.: Who the Mormons Are. 1. Mormon Growth & Why It Happened, 1830-2011:--Why the dramatic rise in LDS converts after 1973?--Why the slowing of growth after 1990? 2. The Matrix of Future Mormon Growth: The Mormon World in 2012. 3. Future Mormon Growth Worldwide through 2120. 4. Future Mormon Growth in the U.S. through 2120. 5. Objections & Responses:-- How valid can projections be, so far into the future?-- All sorts of things could upset your projections!-- The pitfalls of straight-line projections and the effects of organized opposition to Mormonism.--

How could the LDS grow so large so quickly?-- Modernization & Secularization.-- An American church like the LDS will be less appealing in a post-American world.-- The Mormons will run out of money first.-- The Pentecostals will outgrow the Mormons.-- There wont be enough people on the Earth to accommodate these projections.-- There wont be enough people in America.-- So many Mormons--in Protestant America?-- But more Mormons than Catholics?-- The Mormons are falling away in droves.-- But the LDS scriptures say the future Church will be few and its dominions small!6. Why Religions Grow: A Model.7. Exterior Forces Pulling for Mormon Growth:-- Central & South America and sub-Saharan Africa-- The United States-- Europe-- Mainland China-- India-- The lands of Islam8. Interior Forces Pushing for Mormon Growth:-- The power of science and technology.-- The struggle to survive the end of civilization.-- The ambition to transform beyond the human.-- The discovery of extraterrestrial (intelligent) life.9. Knowledge Forces and Mormon Growth.10. The Potential Impact of High Mormon Growth: A More Mormon World:A more Mormon world would ..... be more physically and mentally healthy;... be better educated;... have more stable families and young children;... have greater multicultural expertise;... be more productive;... have less economic inequality;... give more widespread service to the poor and needy;... be better prepared to deal with disasters and crises;... have less demand for potentially addictive materials;... lay the foundation for a new Renaissance in arts and letters;... have many more people who know and believe the essential doctrines of Christianity, follow Christian practices, and have spiritual experiences.Afterword: The Meaning of Mormon Growth.Appendix A: Sources of Statistical Data & Methods of Projections.Appendix B: The Slowing of Mormon Growth Post-1990: A Statistical Analysis.Appendix C: Why Do People Convert to Mormonism?Appendix D:

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