

Archives Unbound: Global Missions and Theology



Archives Unbound

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

Global Missions and Theology

This collection documents the broad range of nineteenth century religious missionary activities, practices and thought in the United States by reproducing pivotal personal narratives, organizational records and biographies of the essential leaders, simple missionaries and churches. This collection includes materials on missionary activities among Native Americans and African Americans, both slaves and freed men. In addition, it highlights activities in far-flung regions and countries, such as Africa, Fiji and the Sandwich Islands, India, China, Southeast Asia, Japan and Hawaii. An intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection.

In the nineteenth century, Christian missionaries directed their attention to unexplored regions, greatly expanding their endeavors. Colonialism brought increased knowledge of Africa and Asia, and the European and American churches extended their work into these areas.

Missionary activities were important in the political, economic, educational and social fabric of many countries. The spreading of medical knowledge, the building of hospitals, missionary schools, the promotion of Western learning, history and international law were some of the examples. Other influencing factors were:

- In American churches, the evangelistic impetus of the revival period carried circuit riders to the frontiers
- The China trade and the slave trade had introduced Americans to the Far East and Africa, and the churches sent workers to start schools and hospitals as well as to preach in these areas
- Prominent in this work were such organizations as the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Presbyterian, the Baptist Burmese Mission, and the Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary Society
- Denominational boards, the Salvation Army and other agencies, some of them related to the World Council of Churches, as well as individuals belonging to such mission-oriented groups as Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons today continue the work that was started in the 19th century

Religion, especially the dynamics of evangelical Protestantism, played an important role in the expansion and nation-building which occupied Americans in the Nineteenth Century. At the same time, early in the century American Protestants also took their first steps beyond our shores in the foreign missionary movement.

Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection