

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 534

Title: Social Gospel Movement

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1990

Language: English

Geographic Location: Various

Abstract: This collection consists of an article about William Ellery Copeland, a Unitarian proponent of the movement.

Historical Notes: The Social Gospel was a Christian intellectual movement that was most prominent in the early 20th century United States and Canada. The movement applied Christian ethics to social problems, especially issues of social justice such as economic inequality, poverty, alcoholism, crime, racial tensions, slums, unclean environment, child labor, inadequate labor unions, poor schools, and the danger of war. Theologically, the Social Gospellers sought to operationalize the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:10): "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." They typically were post-millennialist; that is, they believed the Second Coming could not happen until humankind rid itself of social evils by human effort. The Social Gospel was more popular among clergy than laity. Its leaders were predominantly associated with the liberal wing of the Progressive Movement, and most were theologically liberal, although a few were also conservative when it came to their views on social issues. Important leaders include Richard T. Ely, Josiah Strong, Washington Gladden, and Walter Rauschenbusch. Although most scholars agree that the Social Gospel movement peaked in the early 20th century, there is disagreement over when the movement began to decline, with some asserting that the destruction and trauma caused by World War I left many disillusioned with the Social Gospel's ideals while others argue that World War I stimulated the Social Gospellers' reform efforts. Theories regarding the decline of the Social Gospel after World War I often cite the rise of neo-orthodoxy as a contributing factor in the movement's decline. Many of the Social Gospel's ideas reappeared in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. "Social Gospel" principles continue to inspire newer movements such as Christians Against Poverty. **Sources:** [Social Gospel Movement](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Social gospel; Christian life; Christian ethics; Christian stewardship; Social justice

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
LeWarne, Charles. "The Reverend William Ellery Copeland: A Christian Socialist in the Northwest." Pacific Northwest Quarterly. Vol. 81: no. 1 (January 1990): pgs. 2-10.	1990	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 16-D
