

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 042

Title: Aum Shinrikyo

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1995

Language: English

Geographic Location: Japan

Abstract: This collection consists of articles from *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines from 1995.

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune

Historical Notes: Aum Shinrikyo, which is also known as Aum and Aleph, is a Japanese cult that combines tenets from Buddhism, Hinduism, and is obsessed with the apocalypse. The group made headlines around the world in 1995 when members carried out a chemical attack on the Tokyo subway system. A nerve agent, sarin, was released onto train cars, killing twelve and causing an estimated six thousand people to seek medical attention, according to the U.S. State Department 2010 Country Report. Aum Shinrikyo is listed as a terrorist organization because of the 1995 attack and for previous attempts to carry out biological and chemical attacks. The group split into two factions in 2007 due to internal friction over attempts to moderate the cult's religious beliefs and improve its public image. Despite years of inactivity, both groups remain under surveillance by Japanese authorities. Most of Aum's current 1,500 members live in Japan while about three hundred reside in Russia, says the State Department. Investigation of the 1995 attack remained cold until 2012 when three remaining fugitives were tracked down and arrested, finally closing the chapter on the worst terrorist attack in Japan's history. The cult was founded in 1984. <http://www.cfr.org/japan/aum-shinrikyo/p9238>

Administrative Information

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