



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

Mark Koltko-Rivera

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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.

Includes references, index. 5 illustrations, 29 figures, 22 tables, 2 charts.

Chapters

1. Intro.: Who the Mormons Are.
2. Mormon Growth & Why It Happened, 1830-2011:
 - Why the dramatic rise in LDS converts after 1973?
 - Why the slowing of growth after 1990?
3. The Matrix of Future Mormon Growth: The Mormon World in 2012.
4. Future Mormon Growth Worldwide through 2120.
5. Future Mormon Growth in the U.S. through 2120.
6. 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 won't be enough people on the Earth to accommodate these projections."
 - "There won't 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!'"
7. Why Religions Grow: A Model.
 8. Exterior Forces "Pulling" for Mormon Growth:
 - Central & South America and sub-Saharan Africa
 - The United States
 - Europe
 - Mainland China
 - India
 - The lands of Islam
 9. 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.
 10. Knowledge Forces and Mormon Growth.
 11. The Potential Impact of High Mormon Growth: A 'More Mormon' World:
 - more physically and mentally healthy
 - better educated
 - foundation for a new Renaissance
 - and much more!
 12. Afterword: The Meaning of Mormon Growth.
 13. Appendix A: Sources of Statistical Data & Methods of Projections.
 14. Appendix B: The Slowing of Mormon Growth Post-1990: A Statistical Analysis.
 15. Appendix C: Why Do People Convert to Mormonism?
 16. Appendix D: Tracking Charts: Projected vs. Actual Mormon Growth, 2012-2040.

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