




New Age: History

- Unlike many religions, the New Age Movement does not trace its roots back to a human founder.
- It is a diverse blend of ancient religions like...
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Taoism
 - Gnosticism
 - Occult


New Age: History



Phineas P. Quimby (1838-1866)

- “God is all and all is good”
- Mental and physical sickness is an illusion
- Brought Hindu teachings to the medical world



New Age: History



Marry Baker Eddy (1862-1910)

- Called Quimby’s ideas Christian
- Added that matter and sin were illusions

New Age: History



Charles Fillmore (1889-1948)

- He saw his wife (Myrtle) healed from TB after reading Science and Health
- Started the Unity School of Christianity
- Introduced the idea of reincarnation

New Age: History



Helena Blavatsky (1875-1891)


- Introduced an Occult element into the New Age movement
- All religions basically are the same at their core (Hinduism)

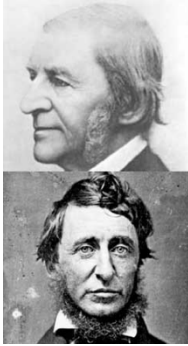
New Age: History 



Alice Bailey (1919-1949)


- Popularized the title “New Age”
- Envisioned a unified society called a global “spirit of religion”
- Developed the concept of the Age of Aquarius
- Many have called her the founder of the New Age movement


New Age: History 



Emerson and Thoreau (1800's)


- Promoted transcendentalism through their writings.
- The ideal spiritual state “transcends” the physical and empirical and is only realized through the individual’s intuition, rather than through the doctrines of religions

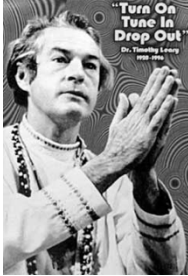
New Age: History 



Aldous Huxley (1920-1963)

- Was a humanist who wrote on topics like parapsychology and philosophical mysticism
- Advocated the taking of hallucinogens
- Considered to be the “spiritual father” of the hippie movement
- Some consider him a leader of modern thought and an intellectual of the highest rank

New Age: History 



Timothy Leary (1960-1996)


- Was a psychologist, futurist, and advocate of psychedelic drug research and use
- Brought Hinduism to the universities
- Coined and popularized the catch phrase “Turn on, tune in, drop out”

New Age: History 



The Beatles (1963-1970)

- Meet Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and brought him back to America
- Songs changed from love songs to songs that promoted Hinduism
- They took America on a “Magical Mystery Tour”

New Age: History 

“We’re going to India to study Transcendental Meditation properly. We want to learn properly so that we can propagate it and sell the whole idea to everyone. This is how we plan to use our power now. They have always called us leaders of youth and we believe that this is a good way to give youth a lead. It needn’t be religion if people don’t want to connect it with religion, its all in the mind, a way to calm down tensions, strengthen understanding, and make people more relaxed.” (John Lennon)

New Age: History



- Brought back the concepts of Yoga and meditation for enlightenment
- The hippie movement grabbed ahold of yoga when they saw that it produced the same effects of mind altering drugs without the “dangers”
- Hare Krishna mantra “Chant and Be Happy” you can have an altered state consciences. 1,913 times
- Love and give peace a chance, the world will be one (Beatles)

New Age: History



George Harrison “My Sweet Lord”

I really want to see you
Really want to be with you
Really want to see you lord
But it takes so long, my lord

Hmm (hallelujah)
My sweet lord (hallelujah)
My, my, lord (hallelujah)

Hm, my lord (hare krishna)
My, my, my lord (hare krishna)
Oh hm, my sweet lord (krishna, krishna)
Oh-uuh-uh (hare hare)

New Age: History



“My idea in ‘My Sweet Lord,’ because it sounded like a ‘pop song,’ was to sneak up on them a bit. The point was to have the people not offended by ‘Hallelujah,’ and by the time it gets to ‘Hare Krishna,’ they’re already hooked, and their foot’s tapping and they’re already singing along ‘Hallelujah,’ to kind of lull them into a sense of false security. And then suddenly it turns into ‘Hare Krishna,’ and they will all be singing that before they know what’s happened, and they think, ‘Hey, I thought I wasn’t supposed to like Hare Krishna!’” (George Harrison. Chant and Be Happy, 1982, p. 33.)

New Age: History



“The main thing is to get the kids... nail you when you’re young and brain wash you, then they’ve got you for the rest of your life.” (George Harrison, Beatles, Loose Talk, Rolling Stone Magazine, p. 70.)

New Age: History



John Lennon “Instant Karma” and “Imagine”

Imagine there’s no Heaven
It’s easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today

You may say that I’m a dreamer
But I’m not the only one
I hope someday you’ll join us
And the world will be as one

New Age: History



Maharishi Mahesh Yogi
(1917-2008)

- Was the founder of Transcendental Meditation (TM).
- TM is the process of chanting a mantra over and over until the mind is emptied
- At this point one experiences peace and clarity

New Age: History



- April 22, 1970 was the birth of Ecology where 20 million people were involved in a demonstration
- Radical ecology is the worship of Mother Earth
- The belief that “all is one” means that all animals and plants have equal rights with humans
- Some radicals believe that humans are a disease on the earth that sometimes needs to be removed



New Age: History



- In the mid 1970's visualization techniques were introduced into the business world
- The Human Potential Movement teaches that “whatever you can visualize will be realized”



New Age: History



George Lucas

- 1977: introduced New Age beliefs to people through the movie Star Wars
- The force is everything and permeates everything is the Hindu concept of Maya
- The concept of the light and dark sides of the force is based on the concept of the Ying and the Yang

New Age: History



Steven Spielberg

- 1977: released his movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind
- Other movies that had strong New Age concepts are Poltergeist, E.T., and Always

New Age: History



Benjamin Creme

- Head of Share International
- 1982: claimed that the Lord Maitreya would come in April-June of 1982 to bring world peace
- Maitreya is the Avatar for the Aquarian Age; the name of the future Buddha, according to Buddhist
- Believes that Maitreya is already here

New Age: History



Shirley MacLaine


- 1987: made a television show called *Out on a Limb*
- It is about her spiritual trek, which fosters in her a growing belief in reincarnation, the existence of aliens, and the immortality of the human soul

New Age: History 





Oprah Winfrey

- 1986: started her on show
- For years it has been the number one rated day time television show in America
- It has over 10 million viewers
- Her show is now televised in over 132 countries
- She brings the teachings of New Age teachers to the everyday person

New Age: History 


The answer is simple, once you realize what the ego is and how it works. When forms that you had identified with, that gave you your sense of self, collapse or are taken away, it can lead to a collapse of the ego, since ego is identification with form. When there is nothing to identify with anymore, who are you? When forms around you die or death approaches, your sense of Beingness, of I Am, is freed from its entanglement with form: Spirit is released from its imprisonment in matter. You realize your essential identity as formless, as an all-pervasive Presence, of Being prior to all forms, all identifications. You realize your true identity as consciousness itself, rather than what consciousness had identified with. That's the peace of God. The ultimate truth of who you are is not in I am this or I am that, but I Am. (Eckhart Tolle. A New Earth, p. 39.)


New Age: History 



Dr. Helen Schucman


- 1976: published *A Course in Miracles* with Dr. William Thetford
- Schucman dictated the book from an inner voice, which claimed to be Jesus Christ
- Over 1.5 million copies have been sold in 16 languages
- Oprah offers a daily radio show on *A Course in Miracles* lead by Marianne Williamson


New Age: History 



Deepak Chopra


- Is a student of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi
- He teaches Ayur-Vedic medicine taken from his Yogi
- He has written extensively on spirituality and the mind-body medicine
- He is a New York Times best seller
- His most famous book is *Ageless body, Timeless mind*

New Age: History 



Jonathan Edwards

- Is a physic that channels the dead
- In 2001 his television show *Crossing Over* premiered on the SciFi channel
- It was the number one show on the SciFi channel
- He has a waiting list for several years to do readings
- He is an example of how the New Age leads people to occult practices

New Age: History 

- Surveys show that millions of Americans have adopted New Age beliefs.
- 50% believe in ESP (extrasensory perception)
- 25% believe in reincarnation
- 42% believe they have contacted the dead
- 15% use spirit mediums or channelers
- 67% read astrology columns

(Fritz Ridenour. *So What's the Difference*, p. 67; Steve Russo. *They Can't All Be Right*.)

New Age: God

- Everything that exists is god, which is pantheism.
- The god of the New Age is an “it” and a force or an energy that permeates all things and is all things.
- God is not personal and does not judge.

New Age: God

“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is one.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

“Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am Yahweh, who makes all things, who stretches out the heavens all alone, who spreads abroad the earth by Myself.’” (Isaiah 44:24)

New Age: Matter

- Since god is everything than matter is also god.
- Matter separated from god somehow and fell away from it.
- Those things that fell far away are rocks, dirt and plants.
- The other things that fell closer to god are animals, women, men, cows, and angels/aliens.
- All matter and distinctness is an illusion.

New Age: Matter

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

“All things were made through Him [Jesus], and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:3)

“All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things exist.” (Colossians 1:16b-17)

New Age: Man

- Once again since god is everything than humans are also gods.
- Individuality is considered an illusion.

“I know that I exist, therefore, I AM. I know that the god-source exists. Therefore, IT IS. Since I am part of that force, then I AM that I AM.” (Shirley MacLaine. Out on a Limb, 1987.)

New Age: Man

“God is not a man.” (Numbers 23:19)

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

New Age: Problem

- Humans are trapped in the illusion of their mortality, limitedness, and individuality.
- They have not realized their own godhood.
- New agers deny that there is sin.


New Age: Problem

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” (Jeremiah 17:9)

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” (Romans 5:6)

New Age: Jesus

- Jesus was a man who achieved Christ-consciousness.
- He realized his godhood to its fullest and came to teach us how to achieve Christ-consciousness.
- He is no more unique than Buddha, Krishna, and Mohamed.



New Age: Jesus

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

New Age: Solution

- Humans need to to escape from their ignorance and realize that they are god and are one with all things.
- This can only be achieved through yoga meditation.
- One needs to work off their bad karma by through many lifetimes.

New Age: Solution

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

New Age: Age of Aquarius

- Many believe that the humanity is progressing toward a “New Age” of peace and prosperity.
- This age will be ushered in when more of the humanity realizes their divinity.
- Ultimately this will be initiated by the coming of the Lord Maitreya who will establish a one world government, religion and a utopian society.



New Age: Age of Aquarius

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” (Matthew 24:21)

“For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

New Age: Afterlife

- Many believe in an endless cycle of life, death and reincarnation (similar to Hinduism).
- However, they eliminate the fact that you can be reincarnated into a lesser entity.
- Eastern countries fear that they will come back as lesser creatures to suffer for their bad “kharma.”
- A Hindu’s ultimate goal is to get out of the cycle of life and death, which is enlightenment.
- Once one achieves nirvana they are reabsorbed into the god-force once again.

New Age: Afterlife

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, [And what happens after that?] but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

“We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:8)

The unrighteous, upon death, go to “Hades” (Luke 16:23) to await the resurrection and the great white throne judgment that happens at the end of Christ’s 1,000 year reign (Revelation 20).

New Age: Practice


Yoga

- The word yoga comes from a Sanskrit word, yukti, which means “union” or “yoke.”
- It is an ancient system of breathing practices, physical exercises and postures, and meditation intended to integrate the practitioner’s body, mind, and spirit.
- The various physical and mental disciplines of yoga are a method for individuals to attain union with the divine Brahma.


New Age: Practice

“The aim of Yoga is to realize liberation from the human condition. To achieve this liberation, various psychological, physical, mental and mystical methods have been devised. All those methods are anti-social in that yoga prescribes a way of life which says: this mortal life is not worth living.” (Pundit Moti Lal Nehru)




New Age: Practice 

“One often hears and reads about the dangers of Yoga, particularly of the ill-reputed Kundalini Yoga. The deliberately induced psychotic state, which in certain unstable individuals might easily lead to a real psychosis, is a danger that needs to be taken very seriously indeed. These things really are dangerous and ought not to be meddled with in our typically Western way. It is a meddling with Fate, which strikes at the very roots of human existence and can let loose a flood of sufferings of which no sane person ever dreamed. These sufferings correspond to the hellish torments of the chönyid state...” (C. G. Jung, Introduction to the Tibetan Book of the Dead.)


New Age: Practices 

“Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God... As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.” (Leviticus 19:31, 20:6)

“There shall not be found among you anyone...who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.” (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)

New Age: Practices 


“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:19-20)

New Age: Witnessing 


- Remember that New Agers are people whom God loves.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. (Ephesians 6:12)

“And the Lord’s slave must not engage in heated disputes but be kind toward all, an apt teacher, patient, correcting opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance and then knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 2:24-25)

New Age: Witnessing 

- Find out what the person believes.
 - Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
 - What do you believe happens to a person after they die?
- Who do you think Jesus was or is?

New Age: Witnessing 

- Ask loving but challenging questions about the credibility of their beliefs.
 - How did you come to your conclusions?
 - What evidence do you have that what you believe is actually true?
 - If we are God, how did we become ignorant of that fact?
 - If we are God, why do we act so badly?