

Public Abstract

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Title:Trouble in Zion: The Radicalization of Mormon Theology, 1831-1839

The Missouri Mormon War in the 1830s created hard feelings and distrust between Mormons and their Missouri neighbors for decades following the armed conflict. Mormons firmly believed they were targets of religious oppression, while Missourians claimed members of the religious group were foreigners who professed a fake religion. The connection of republican values and religious identity has often painted Missourians as non-religious, but religious leaders worked alongside political leaders to oust the Saints from the state. As a result, Mormon theology underwent a radicalization process that resulted in a significant divergence between the Mormon Church and other mainstream Protestant groups by the early 1840s. By the time the Saints built a new city in Nauvoo, Illinois, the Mormon Church was religiously unique and set apart from other denominations in antebellum America.