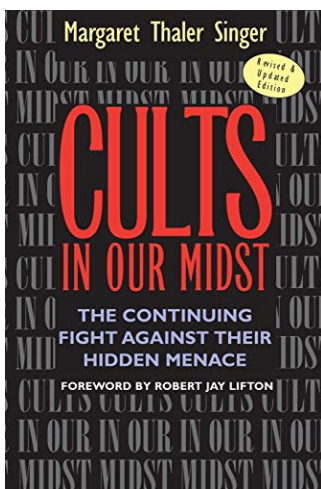


# [PDF] Cults In Our Midst: The Continuing Fight Against Their Hidden Menace

Margaret Thaler Singer - pdf download free book

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## Books Details:

Title: Cults in Our Midst: The Conti

Author: Margaret Thaler Singer

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** Clinical psychologist Singer, emeritus professor at Berkeley, and former cult member Lalich (coauthor of *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds*) here present an instructive report on the cult phenomenon, which they regard as a growing menace around the world. They define cults as organizations that feature "coordinated programs of coercive influence and behavioral control," many religiously or politically oriented and increasingly centered on New Age self-improvement techniques that they claim are now being peddled to businesses. They enumerate the dangers of cults to the individual, particularly the attack on the sense of self; they

analyze the leaders' techniques (almost all these groups are authoritarian), including isolation from family and friends, trance induction, guided imagery and indirect suggestion; they offer practical advice on methods of helping survivors to escape and recover. Includes an appendix of resources and organizations for those seeking help. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**From Library Journal** In 1992, Singer (emeritus adjunct, psychology, Univ. of California at Berkeley) unsuccessfully sued the American Psychological Association and the American Sociological Association, alleging conspiracy to discredit her research and destroy her reputation. That suit and this book hinge on whether Singer's theory of "coercive persuasion" (i.e., nonphysical coercion) is demonstrably valid. Fully a third of this book is a replay of Singer's previous studies and arguments, with the remainder applying her questioned paradigm to cult-associated tragedies. While *Midst* does present numerous examples of deceptive recruitment and other unethical practices, no new ground is broken. Further, as the title implies, Singer's approach is alarmist and often tabloidesque. Lalach's earlier *Captive Hearts, Captive Minds* (LJ 7/94) is a better choice, contending with cult-associated problems in a more pragmatic, more substantial, and less hysterical manner. In addition, all libraries should own a copy of J. Gordon Melton's definitive *Encyclopedic Handbook of Cults in America* (Garland, 1992. 2d. rev. ed.).?Bill Piekarski, Southwestern Coll. Lib., Chula Vista, Cal.  
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Cults today are bigger than ever, with broad ramifications for national and international terrorism. In this newly revised edition of her definitive work on cults, Singer reveals what cults really are and how they work, focusing specifically on the coercive persuasion techniques of charismatic leaders seeking money and power. The book contains fascinating updates on Heavens Gate, Falun Gong, Aum Shinrikyo, Hare Krishna, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, and the connection between cults and terrorism in Al Qaeda and the PLO. In her career she has counseled and interviewed more than 3,000 current and former cult members and their relatives and friends. An expert on post-traumatic stress as well as cults, she lectures widely in the United States and abroad. "What makes Cults in Our Midst so absorbing is Singers ability to show the extremely damaging effect of cults as well as the lure that cults may have for the average people in normal life. Cults often emerge cyclically but they never disappear. A good time for cults is the end of the millennium, when people become obsessed with apocalyptic notions . . . [but] they never really disappear." Cults in Our Midst: The Continuing Fight Against Their Hidden Menace. April 11, 2003, Jossey-Bass. Paperback in English - Rev Upd Su edition. Cults in Our Midst offers vital information on how to help people escape cult entrapments and recover from the experience. Excerpts. Twice in less than fifteen years we have been shown the deadly ends to which cult followers can be led. added anonymously. Classifications.