



Ambassador College Photo

German youths in Essen demonstrate against American participation in Vietnam. But why?

# The Generation Gap—Why?

*Why do young people feel their elders don't understand them? WHY do so many youths REJECT everything their parents stand for? Well more than one half of the world's population is under twenty-one. Suddenly youth is in revolt.*

*Are these youthful voices the wave of the future?*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**L**IKE, MAN — you're nowhere! You just don't make the scene, y'know?" says the 15-year-old to his own father. "Forget it Mom — will ya? Just forget it, like, you just don't dig, you really don't — you're just nowhere!" says the high school girl to her mother.

Suddenly, it's the generation gap.

Parents don't understand their children's talk.

Children don't understand their parents at all.

WHY?

## Youth in Rebellion

Suddenly, it's the young people of the world who seem to "cause all the problems" to most adults. College-age

students riot, scream obscenities, defy police, occupy college buildings, and join extremist groups.

Teen-agers run away from home, "fade the scene," and become aimless hippies. They indulge in premarital sex, drugs, and, oftentimes, crime.

Students riot in Japan, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Mexico and the United States.

Are these youthful voices the wave of the future? Are their screams of indignation prophetic of profound sociological change? Will teen-agers soon elect their own officials and practically govern whole nations?

Today, youth is in revolt. Parents seem unable to either control or influence their children. Schools seem

unable to cope with them. Police departments report the largest representative age groups in crime categories are the tenderest teens. Never in all history has youthful rebellion been such a major issue — never before such a social blight. Never before have mere students been able to virtually topple a government.

But against WHAT are they rebelling?

What are their specific feelings about life, about the "establishment" and about the future? Ask THEM, and find out!

## Youth Has Reasons

They'll tell you a variety of reasons — and most of them quite valid.

First and foremost, they will tell you

they hate WAR. They'll tell you they RESENT being told about the "bomb" and the space race. They'll inform you THEY, the teen-agers and students, haven't got any grudges against the Russians, Chinese, North Vietnamese or any other human beings.

And they'll probably launch into a rather long and involved discussion on these various principles based on what they have heard, read, or seen from their "peers" and from other youths like themselves.

You'll hear words like "honesty," even when mixed with sex — honesty in admitting what they are, what they're doing, and what they believe.

And why the talk about honesty?

Simply because they have discovered they live in a *dishonest* world. Most people around them, from businessmen to political leaders, seem to pretend to be one thing — and are usually another. From the sensational "inside" story books, they read of the chicanery in government, business, industry, finance, and education. From the blatantly lurid motion pictures, they see the examples of adult aberrations, crime, violence, perverted sex, or the glorification of war. In the classroom, they may be listening to non-teachers, or ultra-liberal professors who philosophize about God, sex, and government.

From the proponents of hippieism, they hear "a little pot never hurt anybody."

If they're male — they face the draft. Female, and they wonder about where any real happiness and security is found in a nutty world like ours.

Out of college, out of high school, they're disillusioned, frustrated, "turned off" toward their parents, teachers, and all society. In college, thousands of them revolt, demand different classes, new professors, racist lecturers, liberalization of dormitory rules or the removal from campus of the chancellor.

Never in history have so many nations been so on the defensive before their own youth.

In France, youthful demonstrators triggered nationwide strikes that nearly toppled former President de Gaulle and brought the French economy to a virtual standstill.

In Mexico, near-civil-war conditions prevailed prior to the opening of the Olympic Games, with dissident student demonstrators sniping at police in riotous melees which left a large number dead, wounded and in jail.

In Britain, huge anti-American, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, bombings, destruction of property and rioting were increasingly in the news.

Students were rioting in Germany, in Czechoslovakia, in Japan, in Greece, and in Jordan and Egypt.

In the United States, it's a time of dissent, unrest, violence and rioting for America's college and university campuses.

Rebellion. Dissent. Rejection. Riot. These are the headlines of today that seem to rhyme with "youth" and "student."

But WHY?

Is there any overall cohesiveness to these youthful revolts? Is there any *worldwide* significance?

#### Not All From the Same Causes

Those who riot in Egypt against "Israeli Aggression" are obviously not rioting for the same reasons as British hippies who riot against the war in Vietnam.

The yippies in Chicago were obviously not rioting and demonstrating for the same reasons as the youthful Negroes of Washington, D.C., following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

But whether French, Japanese, American or Scandinavian — there *is* a great deal of youthful dissidents have in common.

They share a common world. They see a common threat to their future. They fear a common fate.

One thing is sure. The time is long past when youthful students can be told to quietly study their books, and leave the decisions to their leaders and elders.

Recognizing the power of shock tactics, of terror and violence, many millions of youths the world over have joined or formed various youth organizations.

Many of them are Communist. Others are Communist-infiltrated. Some are paramilitary — others are just for

free sex. Some are "drop-out" and "don't care" in attitude — and others are obviously politically activist.

But whether challenging their own government, on the local, state, or Federal level, or challenging their schools, their parents, or their churches — today's youth seems bent on challenging. Determined to protest. Dedicated to revolt.

#### One of the Common Causes

The most important worldwide cause of youthful unrest and feelings of resentment is one shared by all humanity.

It is the simple fact of today.

Today we face a world divided against itself, possessing enough nuclear capacity for the destruction of more than 44 worlds like ours; with hot wars and cold wars, mounting liberalism and promiscuity, the double standard and overcrowding, pornography and the pill; the promises of government and the failure of parents.

At his earliest moments of awareness, each youth, whether living in Japan or New England, is taught about the world he lives in.

And he begins to ask, "But why ME? Why NOW?"

He begins to wonder — "But why didn't they ask ME about it? Why are you telling me this is *my* world — when I had no hand in making it so?"

Can the average 14-year-old *help* resenting the news that his world, and his future, can blow up at any moment? Can the average teen-age draftee *HELP* resenting a world filled with fights not of his making, problems not of his creation, frustrations beyond his solving?

Very quickly, after beginning to learn of the imagination-staggering plight of this modern world, a teen-ager begins asking *himself* "WHY?" He wonders HOW the world GOT this way — WHY it did — and WHERE IS IT GOING?

He RESENTS the conditions of this present world. Sometimes, he becomes excited about causes he thinks can help change it, and demonstrates — even riots. Sometimes, he becomes so resigned to the helpless situation he just gives up, drops out, and lives for the moment, in a licentious morass of sex, drugs, crime and hopelessness.

Obviously, there are dozens, even

hundreds of reasons — most of them intensely personal ones, why youngsters defy authority, reject parents, fight police, and revolt. But the one biggest reason is they simply DO NOT LIKE THIS WORLD the way it is — and desperately want to change it.

### The Traditional Barriers

But why aren't these youthful demonstrators quietly studying their assigned texts instead of loudly disagreeing with their university officials?

Simply because all the traditional shapers of youthful opinion and action have themselves undergone a revolution.

The traditional opinion-formers of society — *any society* — have always been the home, school, and church.

But no longer do most homes succeed in producing children according to the standards of that home. No longer does the school seem to form, shape, or direct the thinking of its pupils. No longer does stentorian thunder quail the young from the pulpits of the land. In the midst of youthful turmoil, these three are strangely ineffective in curbing or halting teen rebellion.

Actually, these three are often as not the *target* of teen rebellion.

And the reason they are the *target* of teen-age rebellion is because the teens feel most betrayed by each of these three.

Here are the shocking reasons, and more of the underlying CAUSES behind youthful revolt today.

### The Home

The home, any home, or the lack of it, is the world's first authority, the world's first comfort, the world's first protection, provision, security, warmth, to every young child — regardless as to race, color or nationality. Yet in a worldwide sense, the home is fast disappearing as the traditional bulwark for standards of conduct.

Taking the United States as an outstanding example — almost every third home has already been ripped asunder by divorce.

Many a study is available which directly links juvenile delinquency and teen-age crime with broken homes. But for each home directly involved in a divorce, there are others which are only

hollow shells of their former selves — couples barely clinging together because of socio-economic pressures, and not because of any desire of their own.

Remember, every home is a building block of society. As go our homes, so goes our nation. A house divided against itself cannot stand — just as nations filled with divided homes will not stand. In America, in the affluence following World War II, thousands of American families found themselves better able to afford more of this world's entertainment. Television was on the increase, and millions of Americans were now able to afford top Hollywood talent, nightly, in their own living rooms. Many social changes were occurring all at the same time — among them a relaxing of morals in the traditional areas of morals-watchers, including the church, motion picture censorship, and court control over indecency and pornography.

Labor-saving devices, new automobiles, new entertainments, new hobbies, and the growing affluence were all making it easier for Mom to escape the drudgery of the kitchen, to have additional social pursuits, or even hold down her own job.

The television set became an automatic baby-sitter. Many thousands of women got married, had babies, quickly put them in school, and then plunged into their own social lives which, often as not, ended up in a divorce and a "second time around" searching for a never-discovered happiness.

Far more than 6 million Americans are now divorced or separated, and while the United States contains only 6% of the earth's population, more than a third of the divorces in the world are granted in the United States. Divorce has risen 7 times as fast as the population in the United States — and is on the increase. Obviously, to analyze the entire picture of the dissolution of the American home, and its complete ineffectiveness in accepting its responsibility as the traditional teacher of morals, the instiller of social values and spiritual precepts, would take at least one large book, if not several.

For a complete picture of what is happening in our homes and marriages, you need to write for our free literature

on the subject of marriage and dating entitled, *Your Marriage Can Be Happy, Modern Dating — Key to Success or Failure in Marriage*. and "Did She Marry Too Young?"

But any way you want to slice it, the American home is fast disintegrating.

Few people seem to have paid much attention to what the destruction of home life has done to the nation's youth.

But a few statistical studies would very simply establish the facts that while fully more than 50% of all Americans are now under 21, and while almost every third American home has been broken by divorce, that a tremendous percentage of these youths has already lived through at least one parental failure, replete with all of the fights, squabbles, aberrant sexual behavior, courtroom scenes, economic chaos, and heartbreak that always accompany such domestic turmoil.

The revolutionary social changes which have directly affected the home are almost endless. Among them are the pill, the working mother, the alcoholic father, the "Jackass Formula" of entertainment (the attack upon fatherhood by many different media) and a host of other related causes.

Today's teen-ager lives increasingly in a home where communication has all but disappeared, where understanding of his own problems is rare, and where any real semblance of orderly family life has all but disappeared.

In a broad, general sense, American homes have betrayed America's most precious natural resource — America's children.

Self-seeking, pleasure-mad, lust-filled middle-aged Americans have heedlessly tossed aside the really important social values of the home, a sound marriage (LOVE, HONOR, AND OBEY), for the cheap, tinsel-wrapped glitter of entertainment, kisses under the mistletoe, casual affairs, and the excitement of a Hollywood-glamorized "life over forty."

You don't believe it?

Police agencies, divorce lawyers, counselors of disturbed children, and sociologists do!

If you were the observer, listening to the stories of thousands of juvenile delinquents in the course of a year,

hearing their woeful tales of hideous home life, of tenement-house horror and sex, of vermin, illegitimacy, dope, crime, and parental fights — you would be utterly, soulfully convicted and *convinced* that America's homes are totally sick — totally corrupt!

Actually, a truly happy and stable home is becoming, whether we like to admit it or not, a rarity on the American scene today.

Consequently, the hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of children represented by these sick homes have come to feel betrayed.

How can they trust the teachings of a father who himself cannot be trusted? Why listen to preachments about morals from a mother who herself is a part-time pickup in the neighborhood piano bar? Why believe in virginity and chastity when their mothers take them to their own physicians to obtain birth control protection to insure against premarital pregnancy over their children's protests? Why believe in truth and honesty from a father who openly boasts of his illegitimate business dealings, the stories he told on his income tax form, or sneers about the "fuzz" when passing a policeman?

Why should the child grow up with a profound and far-reaching respect for members of another race while listening to his white father tell his "Nigger" jokes, or his black father talk of "Uncle Charley" or the white "Honky"?

Children are a product. The home is the factory.

Poor factories turn out poor products. You figure it out.

### The School

Again, going back to look for a brief moment at the developments in American society from the postwar world (and most of these developments have also spilled over into much of the rest of the English-speaking world), with all the new liberalism in society, the schools have been perhaps the most liberal and "progressive" of all.

With "progressive education," new methods of audio-visual education, new teaching aids and new texts, complete revolutionary changes have occurred in Western school systems. First came the

missile race, and a complete shifting in emphasis in America's school systems.

In the late fifties, the entire emphasis in American education was upon a crash program to produce more doctors, physicists, chemists, scientists of all types. The United States felt itself in a desperate rush to catch up with Russia's sensational "Sputnik" launching, which had captured the imagination of the world and revealed the ugly truth that the United States was, indeed, lagging behind what most of the world had always thought of as a completely agrarian and slow-moving society.

In the flurry of little-researched, and hastily prepared textbooks and teaching methods, America's schools struggled to meet the new challenge.

Instead of recognizing the inherent evils in specialization, and the immediate dissolution in the cultural and social values in the teaching of the technologies, America's school systems plunged heedlessly into a further glorification of the machine, the process, the computer.

Only years later could some of America's universities begin to appreciate the wistful statement of the pimpled freshman who complained, "The only time I'm ever noticed around here is when I spindle my IBM card!"

The teaching of the child psychologists and their advocacy of no punishment, no discipline, and no absolutes had gained acceptance in the highest educational levels. Also, thousands more were now able to *afford* "higher education" because of the new wave of affluence, coupled with the demand for greater specialization in all the professions and trades.

Hundreds are the evils of the American educational system. It's one of the best in the world — for producing scientists, specialists, chemists, mathematicians — or professional students.

It's also one of the best in the world for producing dissidents, protestors, disenchanting students, and riots.

Today's textbooks ramble through millions of miles of trivia, and pounds of pages of philosophy; and the lists of pseudo-intellectuals produced by substandard professors in substandard classes dealing in substandard drivel

would rival the lists of honored dead of World War II.

Cite all the successful young corporation executives you wish, point to all the bright young men in gray who command large green salaries you wish, the stark facts are America's colleges and universities are neither happy nor successful.

And their Federal-supported lack of success is only another part of a larger evil — that of the sacrifice of a nation's youth on the altar of intellectual prattle, while ignoring the true meaning and purpose of life itself.

Said one educator, "They [today's collegiate generation] don't seem to know who they are, where they're going, or why."

Astounding.

Presumably, that's what they came to college to find out.

Ask the average student what he's getting out of college — so long as you avoid the subject of sex. You'll probably be surprised.

Today, there is the growing problem of the "professional" student who talks of being "washed up" at age 25, takes drugs, and smokes pot, and seems bored, apathetic, defeated, and unhappy.

It takes a real love-in, a grand bash of a party, or a huge police confrontation to really excite this kid — something dramatic, like draft-card burnings, flag trappings, or even flying wedges into police lines.

Otherwise, he doesn't really know what school has done for him — besides, that is, provide him with a kind of society-sanctioned, government-supported home away from home where everyone is pretty close to his own age, and anti-social behavior is not only accepted, but expected.

No, the schools, too, have failed our youth.

They have failed to challenge. They have failed to stimulate. They have failed to truly educate, and they have failed to produce the true product of true education — stable minds, mature outlooks, adult emotions, and bright hopes for the future.

The product our colleges and universities are turning out is the sum total of

today's youth — bewildered, defeated, thwarted, scared.

And just as sure as YOU sometimes grasp at time, and try to "hang on" to moments of passing pleasure, so are the good things of life all that much sweeter to youngsters who have only begun to discover their own futures.

Is it any wonder a disillusioned, evolutionized, disabsolutized, unpolarized, disenchanting, partly educated youngster revolts?

Someone once said, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Is this what the universities are handing out?

Appraise it for yourself.

What do *you* read in the papers about today's educational institutions?

If you read America's leading papers, you read of sexual revolution, dorm rooms with posted 30-minute use schedules, dropouts, student demands, riots, occupation of administration offices, and probably demands for the resignation of the chancellor.

Somewhere, somehow, our schools have also failed our youth.

Millions of parents sigh with relief when their kiddies first troop off to school with shining faces and well-polished apples. They hope that somehow, magically, teacher will accomplish what they don't know how to do.

Years later, when the big son with pimples and long hair demands the keys to the car, Dad realizes the school hasn't been able to do what Dad didn't know how to do, and that his son doesn't especially sing the teaching system's praises, either.

Again, the statistics are almost endless.

Colleges in revolution; universities in revolt. It seems many countries must live in virtual terror of the news of yet another riot on their 50,000 plus university campus.

Can anyone deny that the school has FAILED as a traditional teacher of moral standards, high cultural aspirations, and the true mores of law, chastity, obedience, honesty, integrity; love of home, country, and God?

### The Church

Trying to appraise the real meaning of the "church" as a traditional guard-

ian of right moral conduct and true social values is one of the most difficult of all.

It's difficult first, because almost no one fights like churches do.

Any young collegian has learned that most major butcheries, bludgeonings, shootings, stabbings and other inhumane deaths administered to hapless humans have either been at the direct behest of, or have received the special blessing of, religion.

Churches today seem bent on two extremes (and haven't they always?). On the one hand, they seem to be totally involved and "related" to the hugely emotional social issues. Clerics, bishops, priests and others of the "frocked" among us are seen marching at the head of dissident groups or appearing angrily on television to condemn their own overseers.

Or they are so dismally out of touch with modern-day twentieth century problems as to appear an island in a passing flood — untouched, imperturbable, forever dry.

To most youngsters, the prayers, memorized verses, "little old ladies in green felt hats" version of youthful religion was remembered in the same moment as castor oil, father's belt, and 3:00 p.m. on a dismal, rainy day in a dull class.

It was something to be endured, tolerated, and wondered at — never something they really understood, were challenged by, or profited from.

And what, pray tell, could ancients wearing long robes and white beards ever HOPE to give them about how to live in Detroit's tenements, or Bedford-Stuyvesant's brownstones? What could a balding man over 50 who whistled his "s's" and sung his talk hope to tell a hot-faced little fifteen-year-old when his special girl had handed him a note after school on Friday?

Take the youngish cleric who told a group of *girl* parishioners, "Sex is fun. Not only is sex fun — it is also funny . . . This means there are no laws attached to sex. I repeat," he said, "ABSOLUTELY NO LAWS."

"We ought to relax and stop feeling guilty about our sexual activities" he

intoned. "And I mean this, whether those thoughts are heterosexual, homosexual, or autosexual."

"The good news of the Gospel which has been delivered to me," he continued, "is that we have been freed from . . . evaluative codes of behaviour — freed to act responsibly according to a higher law. If you will, this is the law of love. . . ."

The girls didn't seem especially shocked.

They'd been reared in homes. They'd been to school. It was just that they didn't expect such libertine notions from a pulpit. Especially in an all-girls' school, and from a youngish minister.

Have the churches really failed the youth? The answer, unfortunately, is "yes."

Defend them though some will, the churches of this world and this age have failed a whole youthful generation.

Today's youth has been lied to, and lied about. It has been given the double-standard and the "do as I say, don't do as I do" formula too long.

It has been allowed to look behind the parent's teaching, into the teacher's text, and into the preacher's notebook.

And in all this modern education, there were some hard, brutal shocks.

Today's youth has found it lives in a world filled with tigers. And its answer is a snarl.

### Do Two Wrongs Make a Right?

Like many a cynic, millions of youths have seen much of what's wrong with the world: wrong with their elders, their schools, and their churches.

The only remaining trouble is they don't seem to know what can be *right* about it.

Without realizing it, millions of them are clinging to the same notion that divided their own parents, frustrated their own teachers, and led their own pastors to prate about sexual aberrations.

They're beginning to believe someone else's sins justify their own.

They think two wrongs make a right.

They imagine sin plus sin equals no sin, that an evil deed deserves another,

that futility deserves resignation, and hopelessness deserves no hope.

And they're wrong.

There *is* an answer for today's youths.

There is a *future* — a glittering, glamorous, fantastic future ALIVE with promise, excitement, challenge, discovery — love. It's a future the traditional teachers of this present world not only do not KNOW about, but have RESENTED when they DID hear. It's a future their schools, their parents, and their churches have largely REJECTED!

And it's the only future there is.

If you're one of America's or Britain's youth — or wherever you live, and whatever your age, and you want a pre-

view into the most breathtaking future that could ever be imagined, then you need to write for the free booklet we have waiting for you about *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*.

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Every issue contains one or more articles devoted to today's youth and their NOW problems.

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