

Who are the Jesuits and why are they dangerous?

The Jesuits, officially known as the Society of Jesus, are a Roman Catholic religious order founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1534 and formally established by Pope Paul III in 1540[1][2]. Their primary mission initially focused on serving marginalized groups, but it quickly expanded to include countering the spread of Protestantism during the Counter-Reformation[1][2]. The Jesuits have been viewed as dangerous by some due to their perceived influence and power. They were accused of being the pope's secret military arm and of operating independently, which led to their expulsion from various countries and eventual dissolution in 1773, though they were later reestablished in 1814[3][4]. Jesuits posed a threat to lawful authority in many nations, citing their oath of loyalty to the pope and involvement in political affairs[4][5].

[1] Smith, G. S. (2020). *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time* [3 volumes] (p. 195). ABC-CLIO.

[2] Got Questions Ministries. (2002–2013). *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*. Logos Bible Software.

[3] Classen, A. (2012). *Early History of the Southwest through the Eyes of German-Speaking Jesuit Missionaries: A Transcultural Experience in the Eighteenth Century*. Lexington Books.

[4] Cairns, A. (2002). In *Dictionary of Theological Terms* (p. 242). Ambassador Emerald International.

[5] Baur, F. C., Hodgson, P. C., & Brown, R. F. (2023). *Church and Theology in the Modern Era: From the Reformation to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. Cascade Books.