Student Radicalism in the Sixties: A **Historiographical Approach**

The 1960s was a decade of great social and political upheaval in the United States. The civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, and the feminist movement all gained momentum during this time, and students were at the forefront of many of these movements.

Student radicalism in the 1960s has been the subject of much scholarly research. Historians have approached this topic from a variety of perspectives, and there is no single definitive interpretation of this complex phenomenon.



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Approach by Serges Djoyou Kamga



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One of the most common approaches to the study of student radicalism in the 1960s is the **generational approach**. This approach emphasizes the unique experiences and values of the baby boomer generation, who came of age during the 1960s. Baby boomers were raised in a time of unprecedented prosperity and opportunity, and they were also exposed to a great deal of social and political change. This combination of factors, historians argue, helped to shape the radicalism of the 1960s.

Another common approach to the study of student radicalism in the 1960s is the **organizational approach**. This approach focuses on the role of student organizations in the development of the radical movement. Historians who take this approach argue that student organizations provided a crucial space for students to socialize, develop their political ideas, and organize for action.

A third approach to the study of student radicalism in the 1960s is the **ideological approach**. This approach focuses on the different ideologies that motivated student radicals. Historians who take this approach argue that the radical movement was not a monolithic entity, but rather a diverse coalition of different groups with different goals and beliefs.

The historiography of student radicalism in the 1960s is a complex and ever-evolving field. Historians continue to debate the causes and consequences of this movement, and there is still much that we do not know about this important period in American history.

Further Reading

- The New Left and the Origins of the New Left by Paul Buhle
- The Student Revolt: The Activists by Kenneth Keniston
- Student Activism and the New Left, 1960-1970 by John D'Emilio





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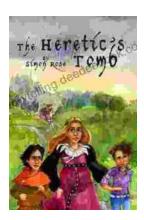
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