

# CULTURE AND COMMITMENT

A Study of the  
Generation Gap

Margaret Mead

The American Museum of Natural History Special Members' Edition

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MARGARET MEAD

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AND COMMITMENT

A STUDY OF THE GENERATION GAP

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Photo by Jill Kremetz



**On the generation gap:**

**“At this breaking point between two radically different and closely related groups, both are inevitably very lonely, as we face each other knowing that they will never experience what we have experienced and that we can never experience what they have experienced . . . Once the fact of a deep, new unprecedented, worldwide generation gap is firmly established, in the minds of both the young and the old, communication can be established again. But as long as any adult thinks that he can . . . invoke his own youth to understand the youth before him, he is lost.”**