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Jehovah's Witnesses Charged with Extremism in Central Russia

19:31 30/07/2012

CHEBOKSARY, July 30 (RIA Novosti)

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Authorities in the Russian Central Republic of Chuvashia opened a criminal case against ten Jehovah's Witnesses for "establishing an extremist community," the local investigation department said.

According to investigators, the church opened a branch in Cheboksary, the capital of the republic, as well as in the towns of Novocheboksarsk, Kanash and Alatyr, where its members "distributed among the local residents banned printed materials...containing propaganda of exclusivity and the superiority of Jehovah's Witnesses over followers of other religions."

Jehovah's Witnesses, known in the West for persistent door-to-door evangelism, now faces charges of instigating religious hatred and humiliating human's dignity.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, which has some seven million followers worldwide and 300,000 in Russia, have already been banned in a number of Russian regions and in some former Soviet republics.

In May, similar charges were lodged against the group in the Russia's Urals city of Orenburg.

Moscow's branch of the Jehovah's Witnesses was dissolved by district court ruling in 2004, but in 2010 the European Court of Human Rights declared the decision illegal.

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Joint UN and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan has expressed concern over the situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo, where the Syrian army launched an anti-opposition operation on Friday, Al Jazeera reported.



Netanyahu Calls for 'Credible Military Threat' Against Iran

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for "a strong and credible military threat" in order to force Iran to stop its nuclear program.



Russia Pounds GB 95-75 in Olympic Basketball

Russia's men flew out of the blocks at the Olympic basketball tournament on Sunday, pounding host Team GB 95-75.



Siberian Wildfires Show No Mercy

Forest fires continue to rage in Siberia on a total area of over 23,000 hectares, with the worst of the blazes concentrated in the Tomsk Region, the Russian Emergencies Ministry reported on Sunday.

Russia Beyond the Headlines



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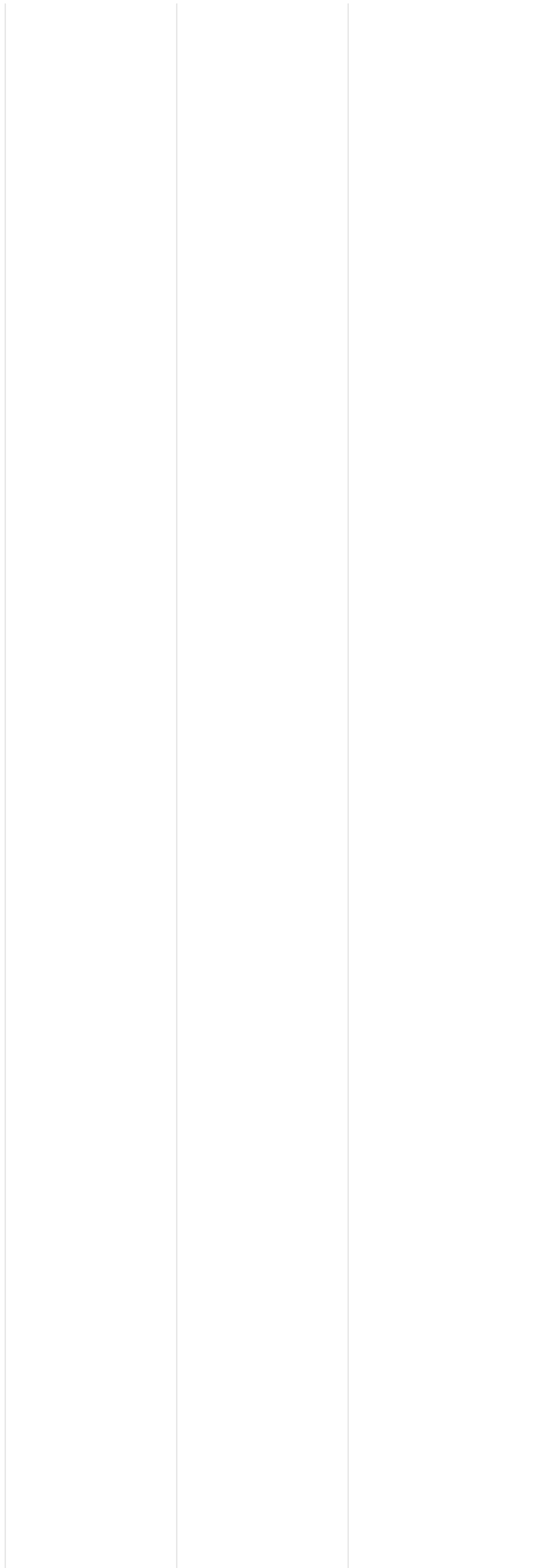
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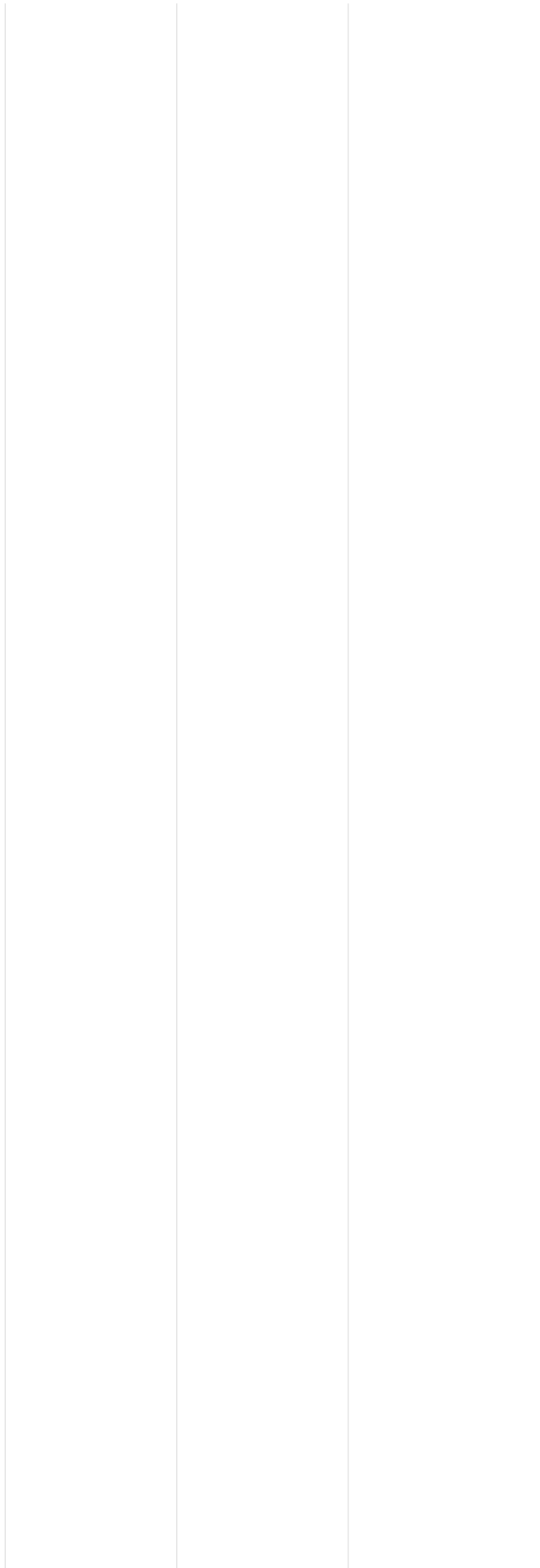
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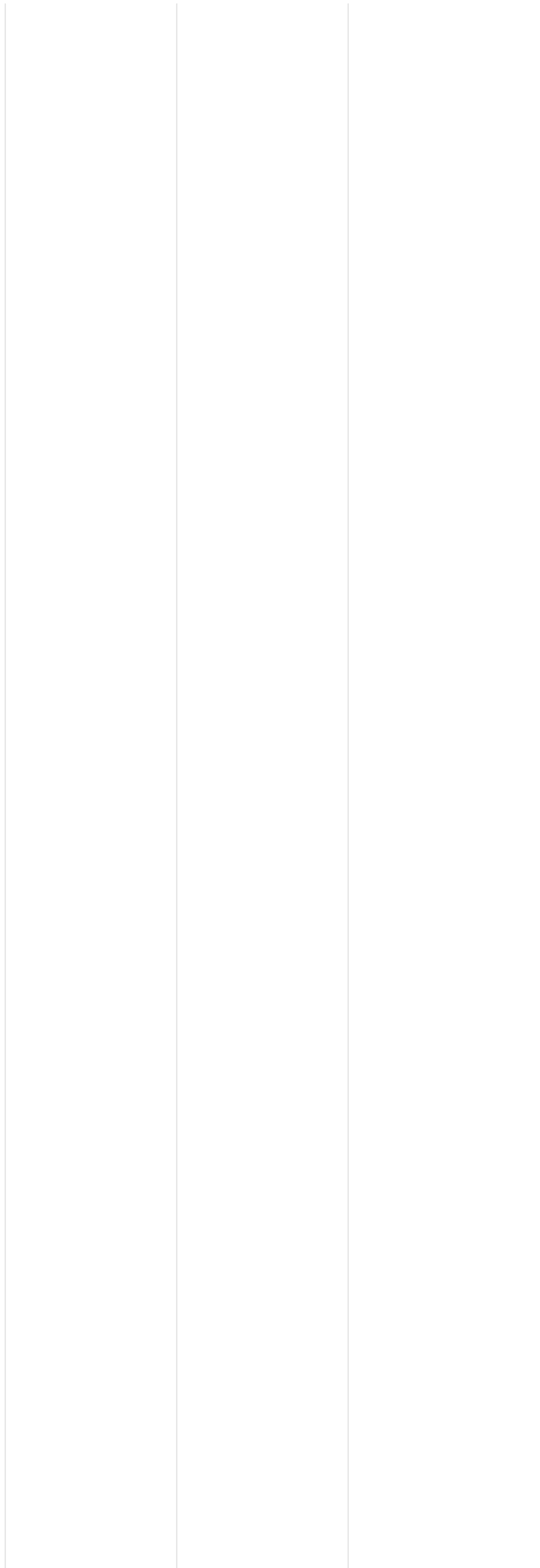
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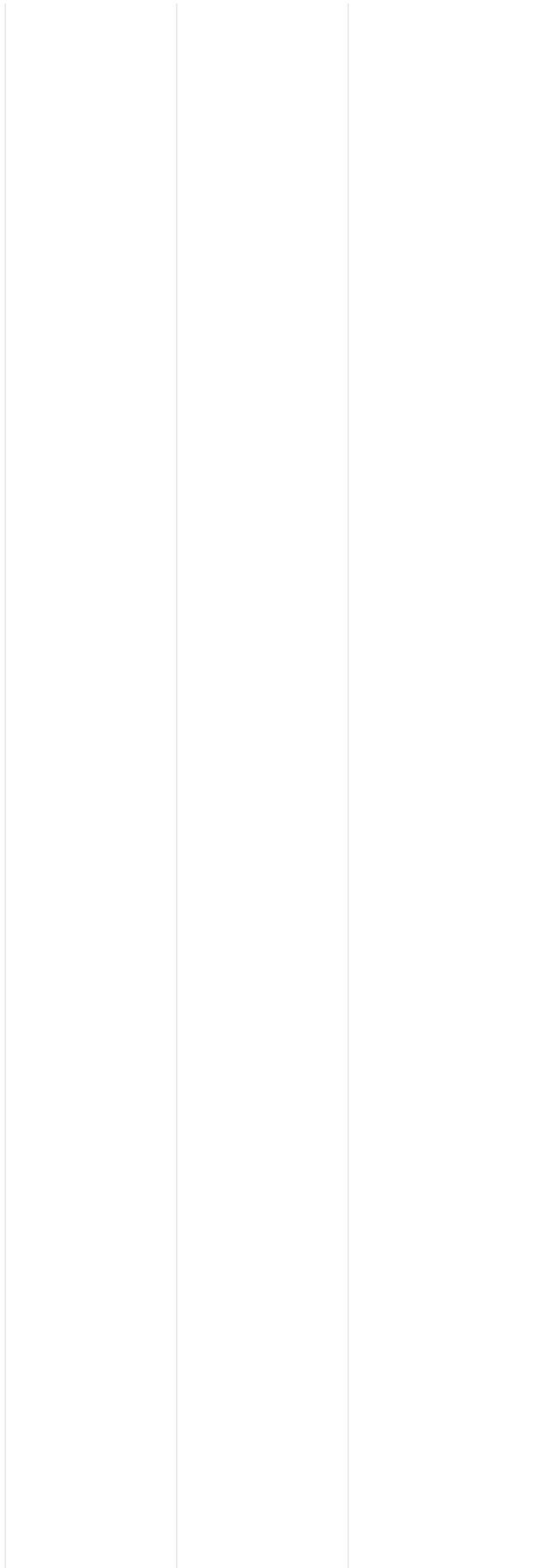
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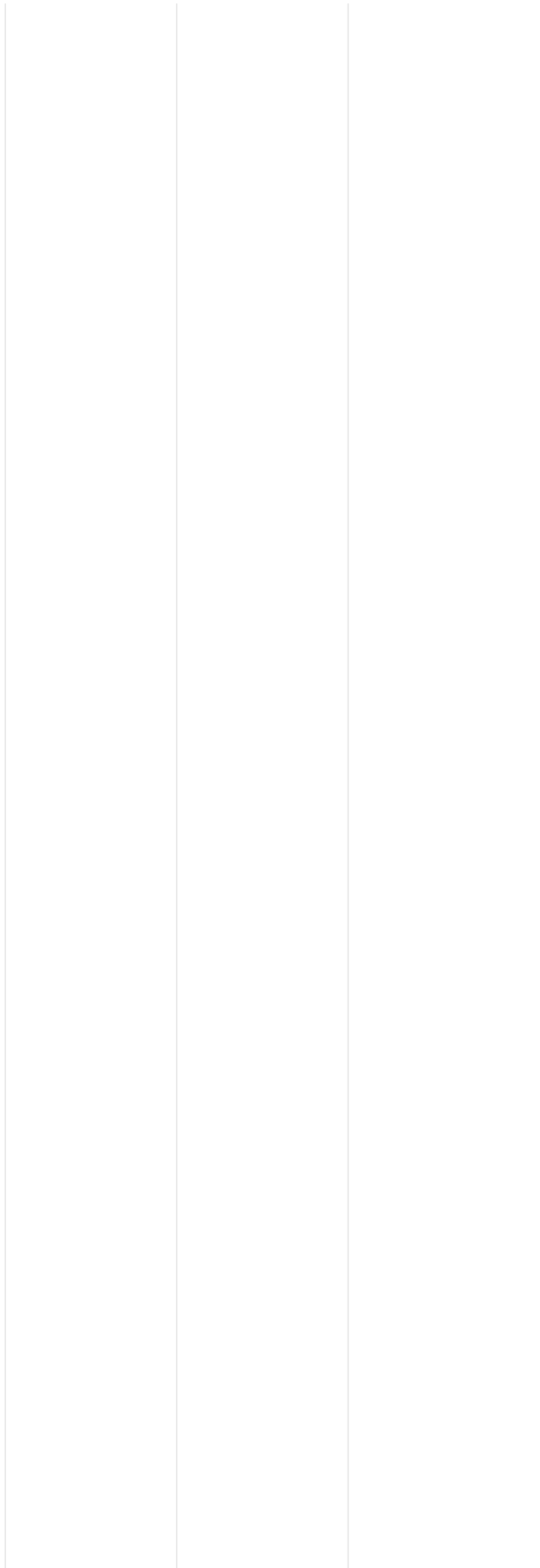
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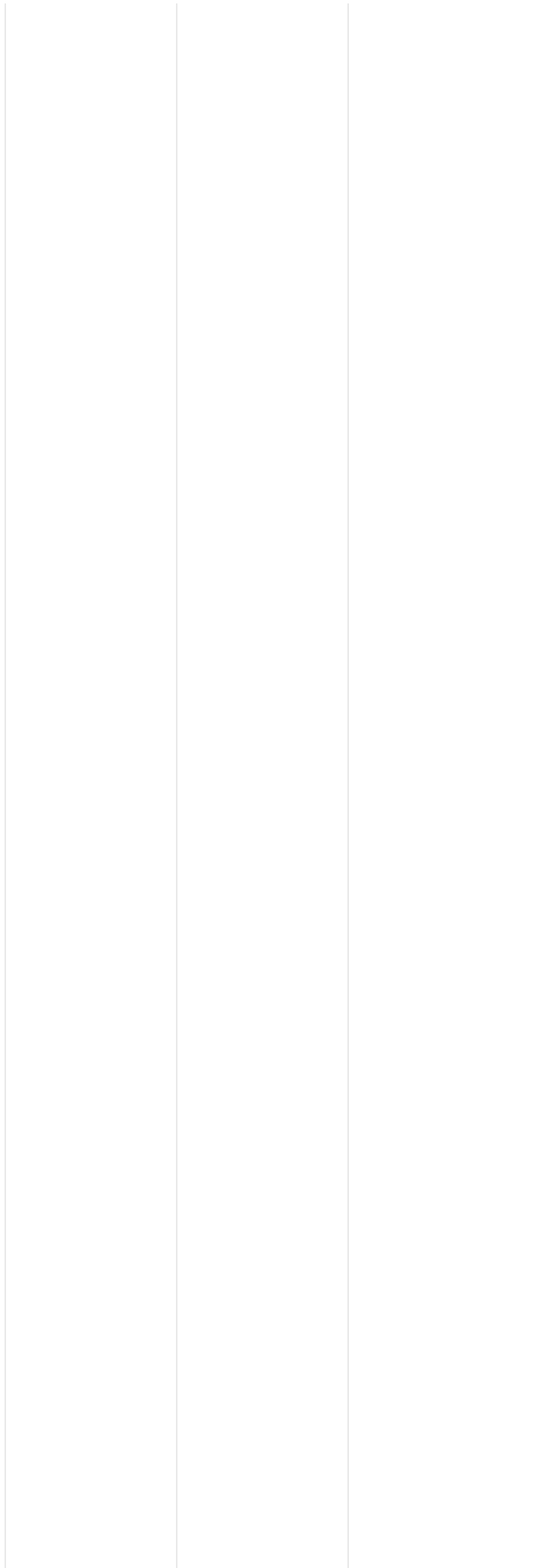


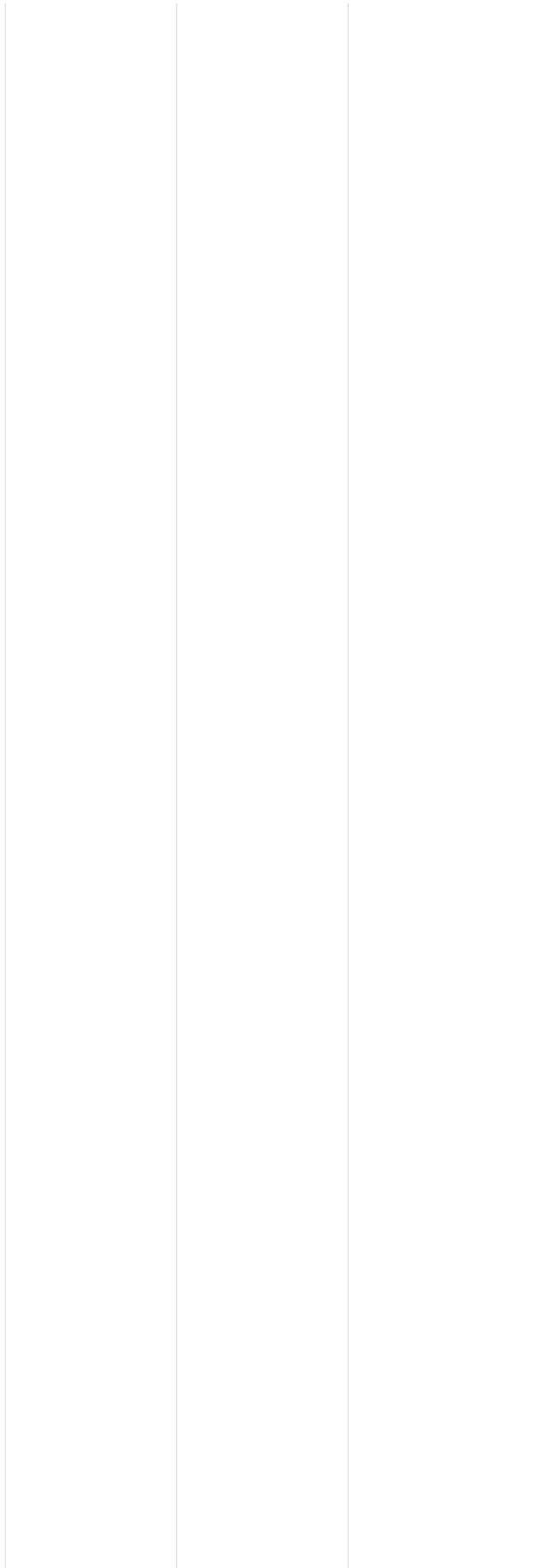


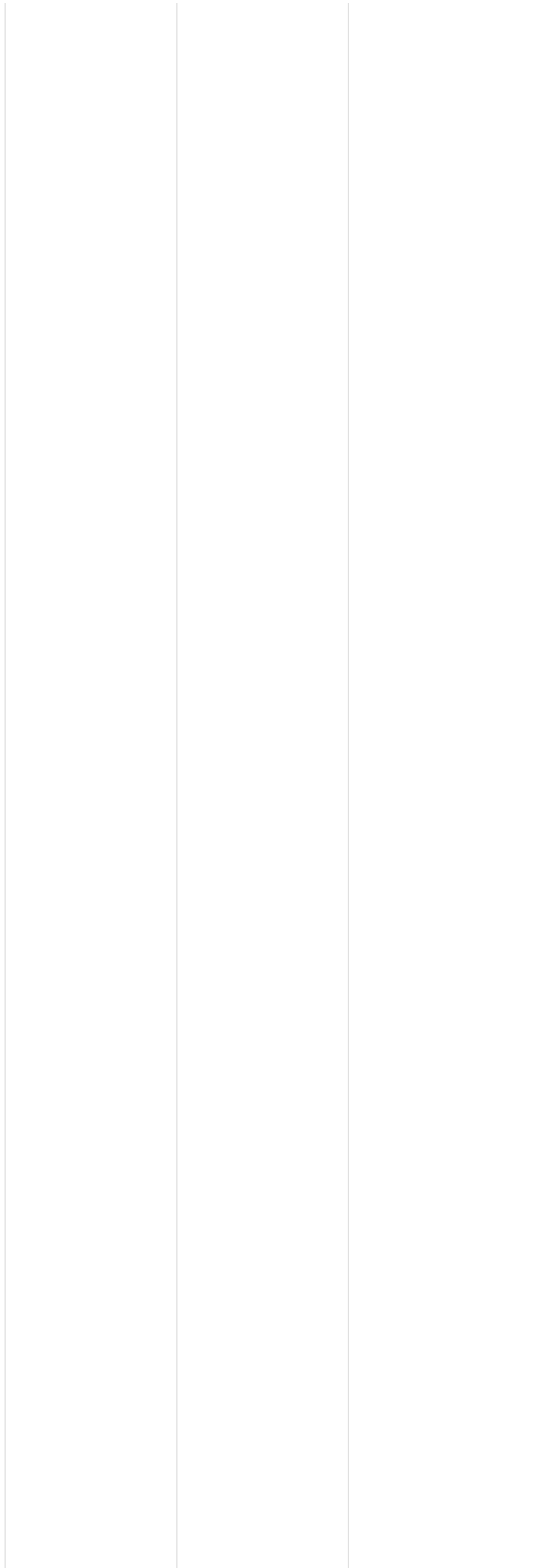


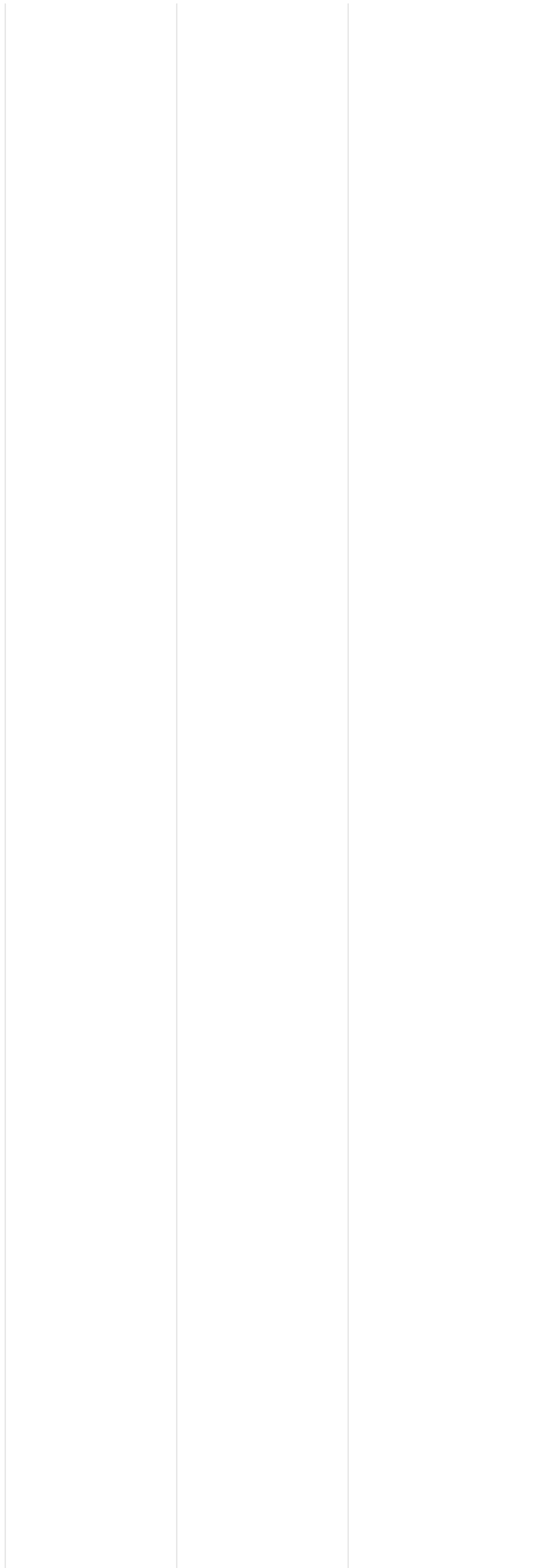


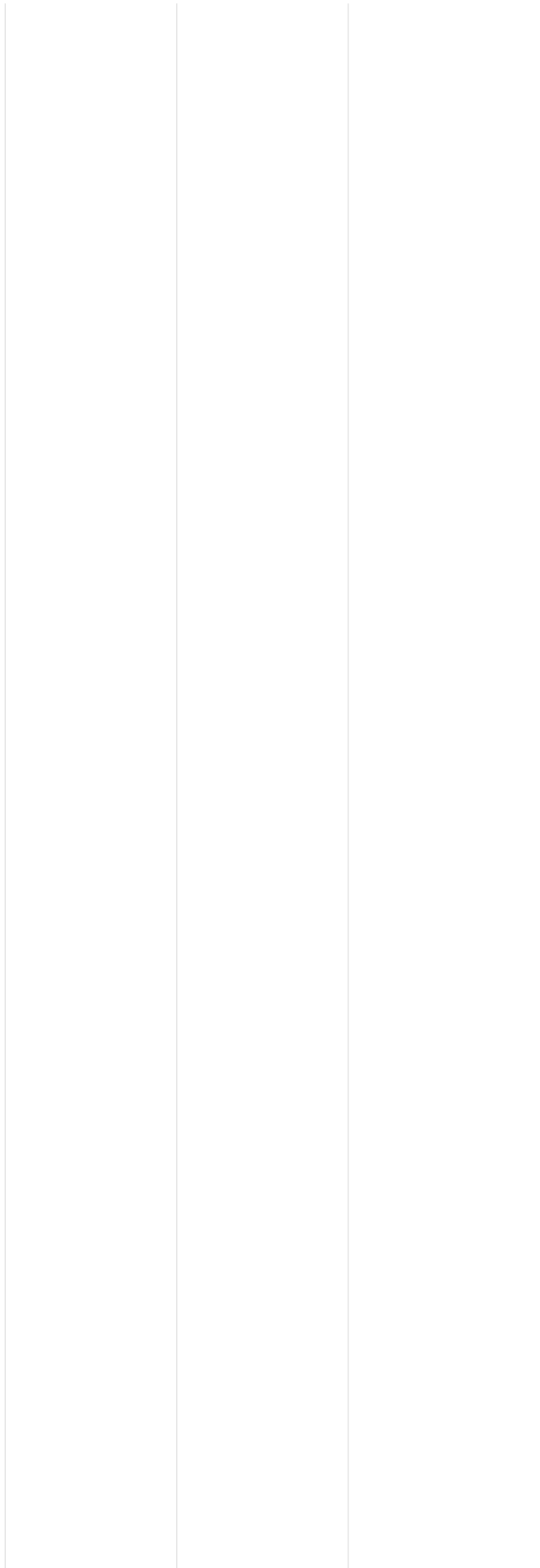


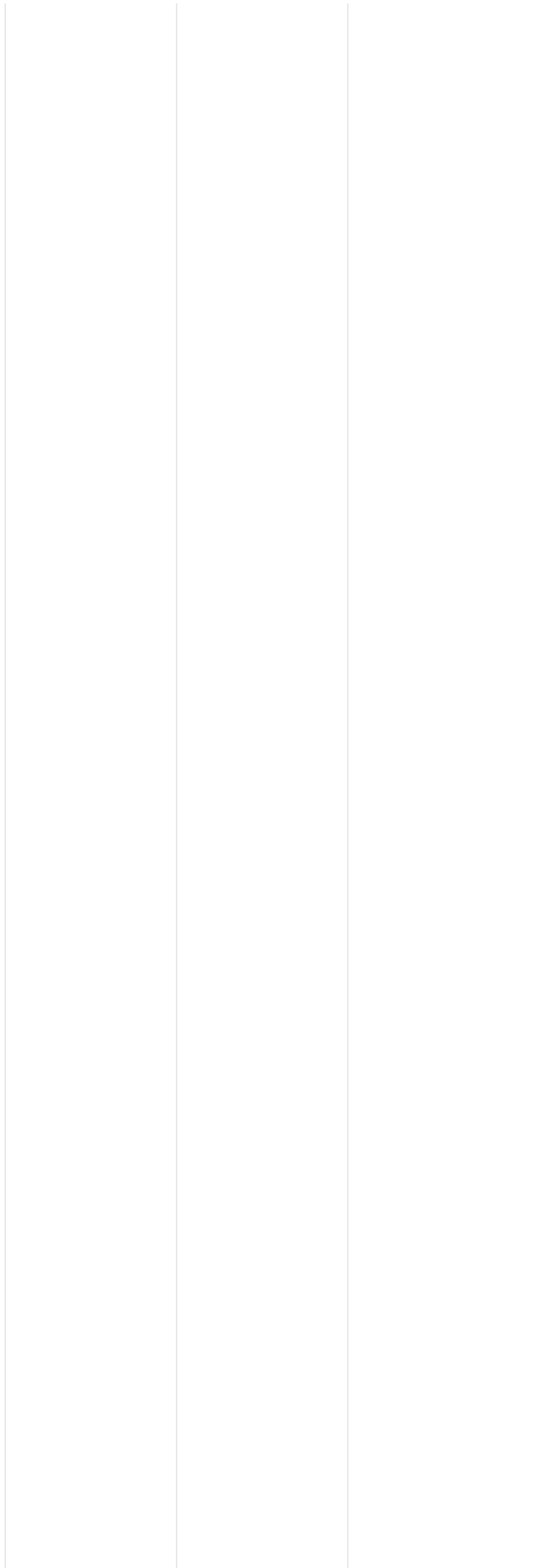


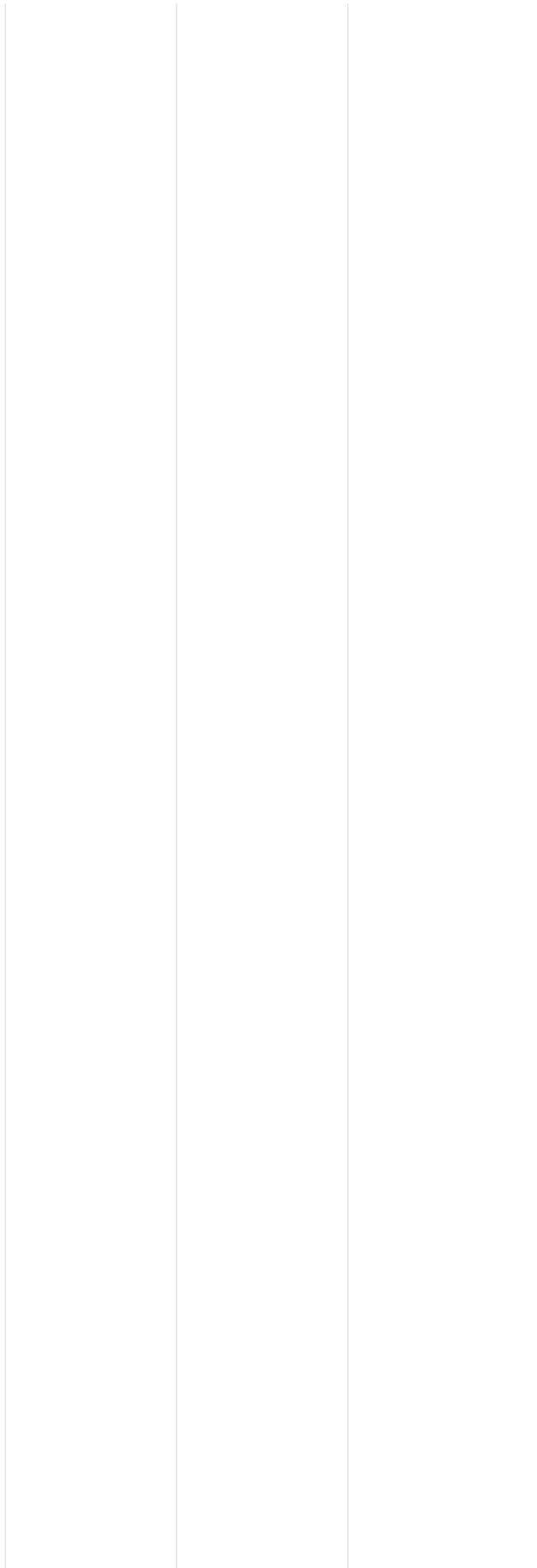


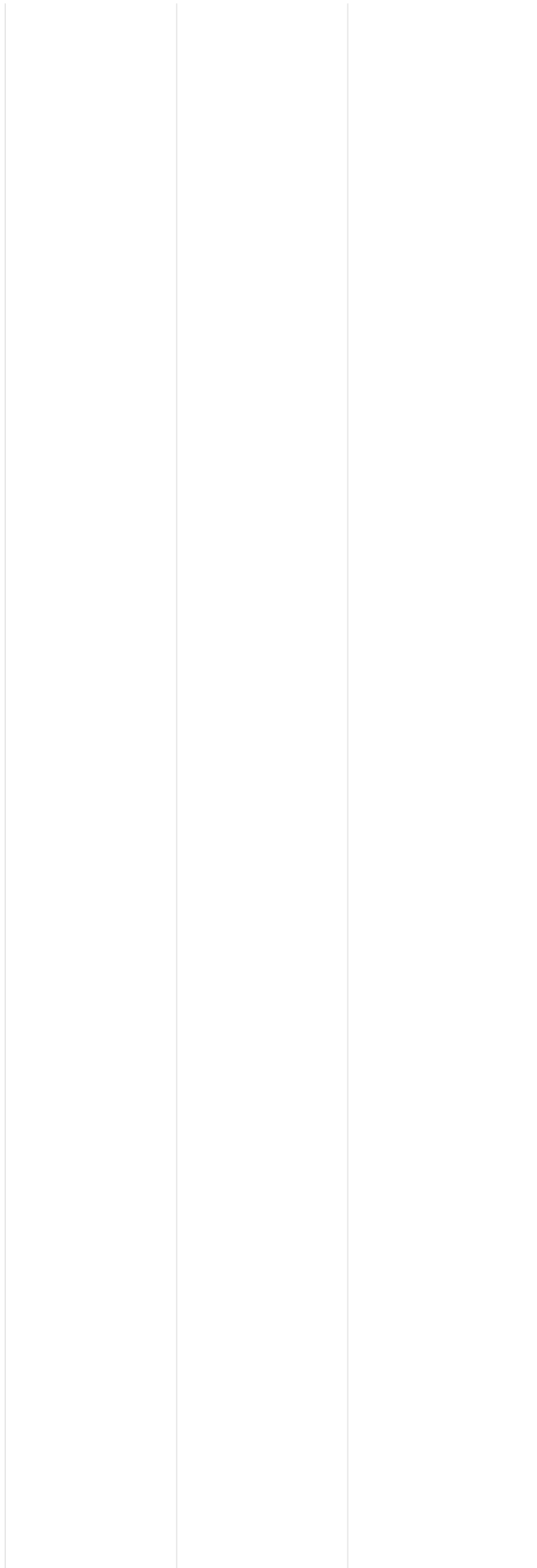


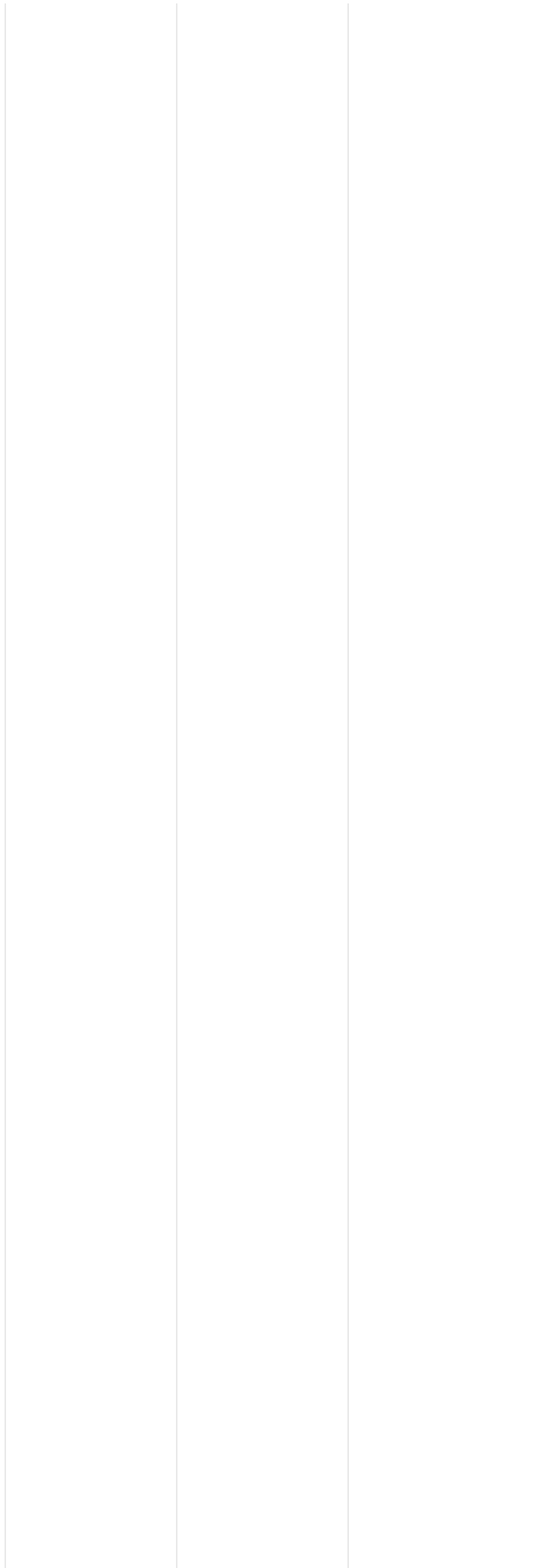


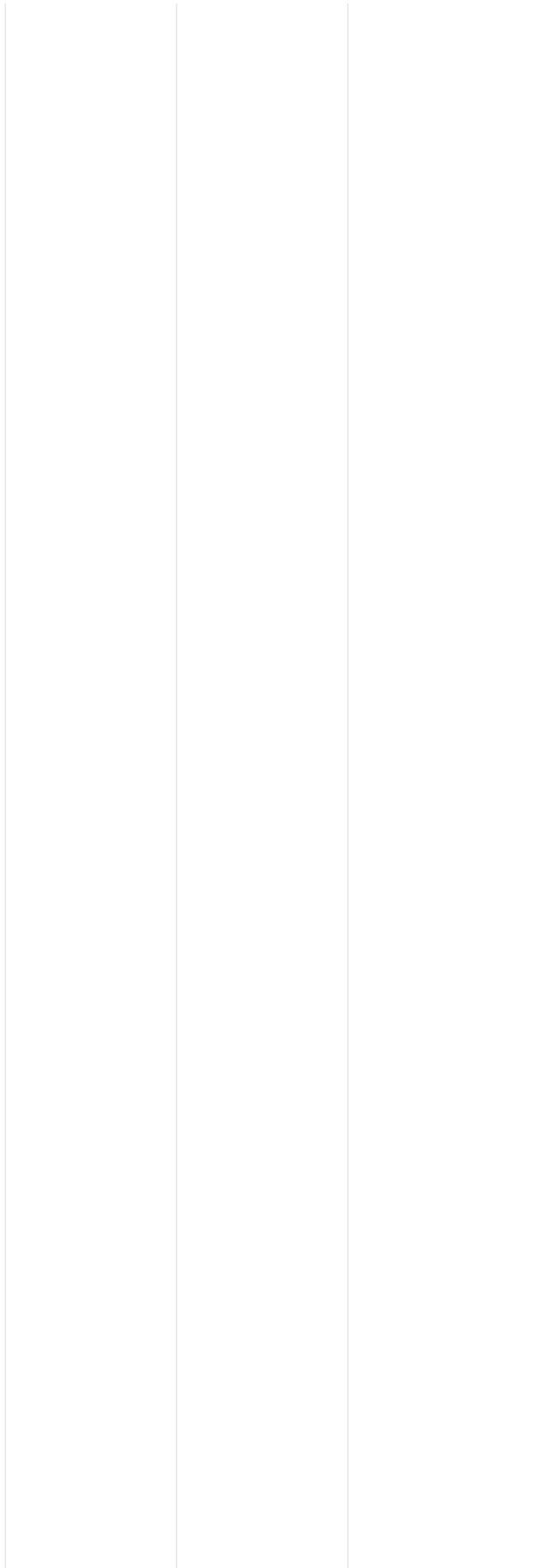


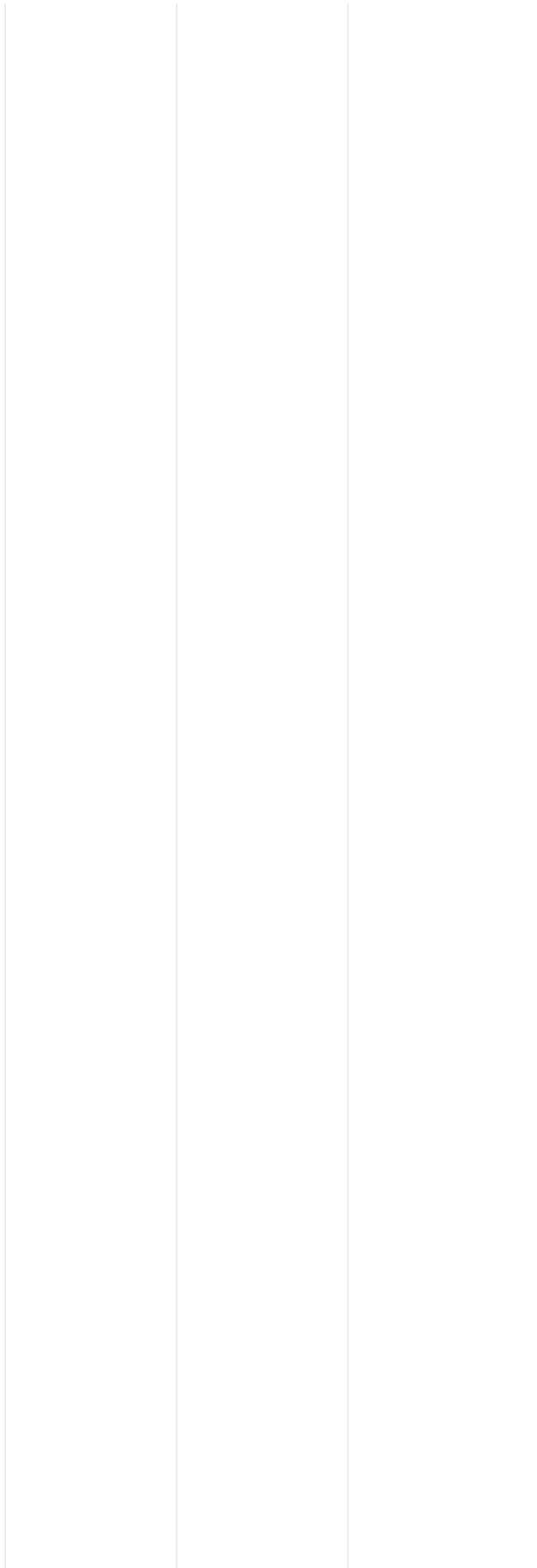


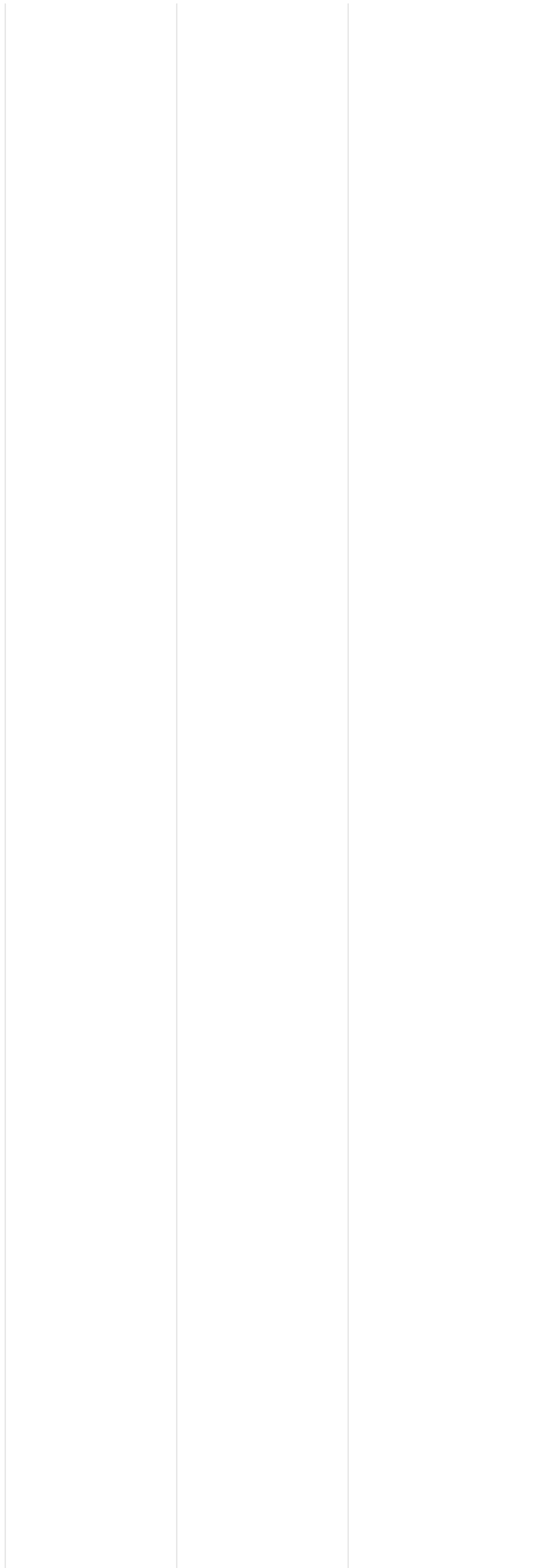


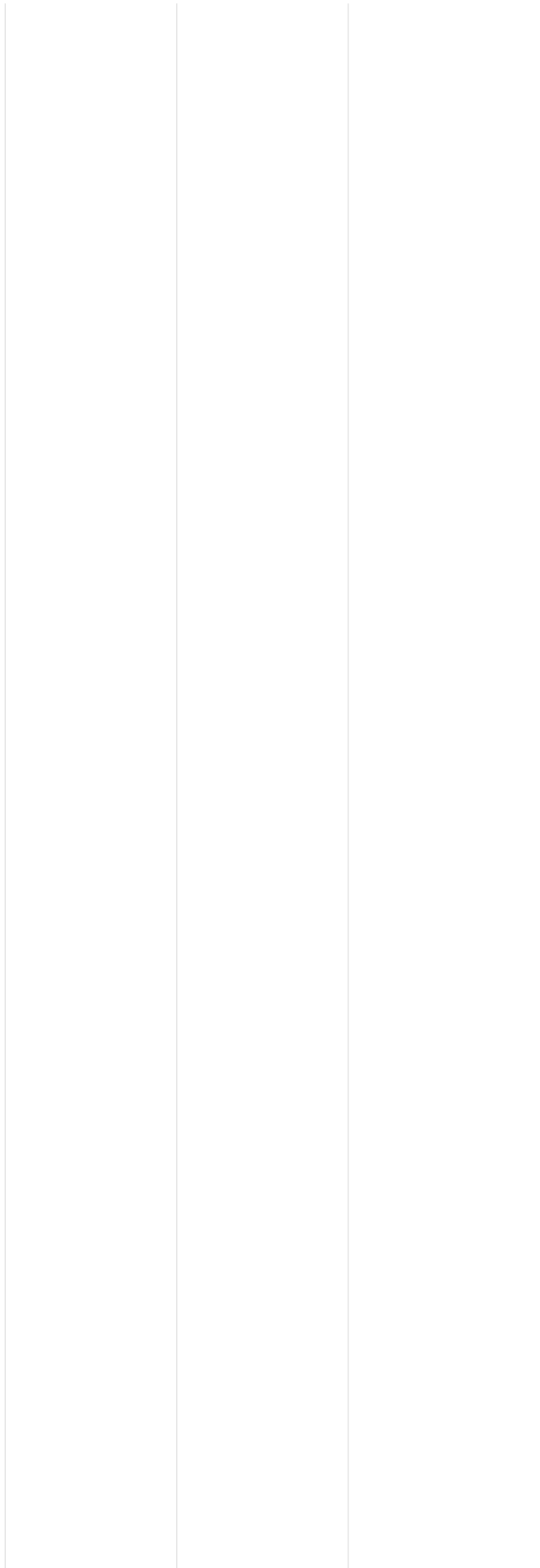


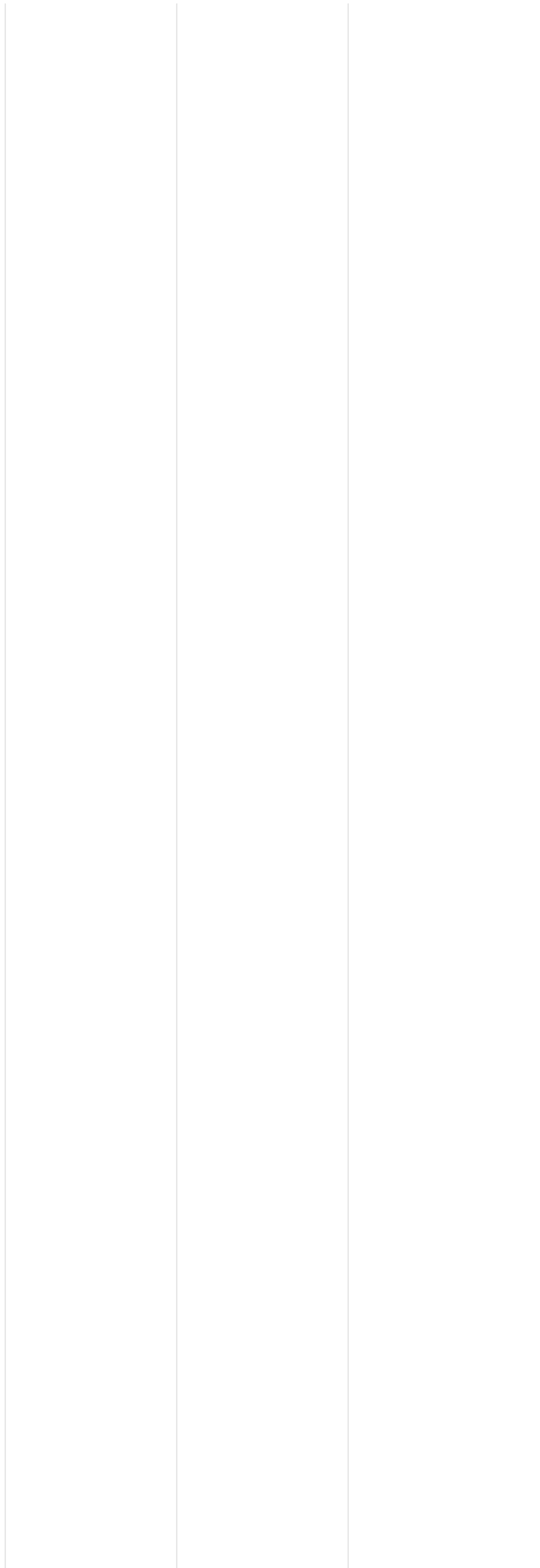


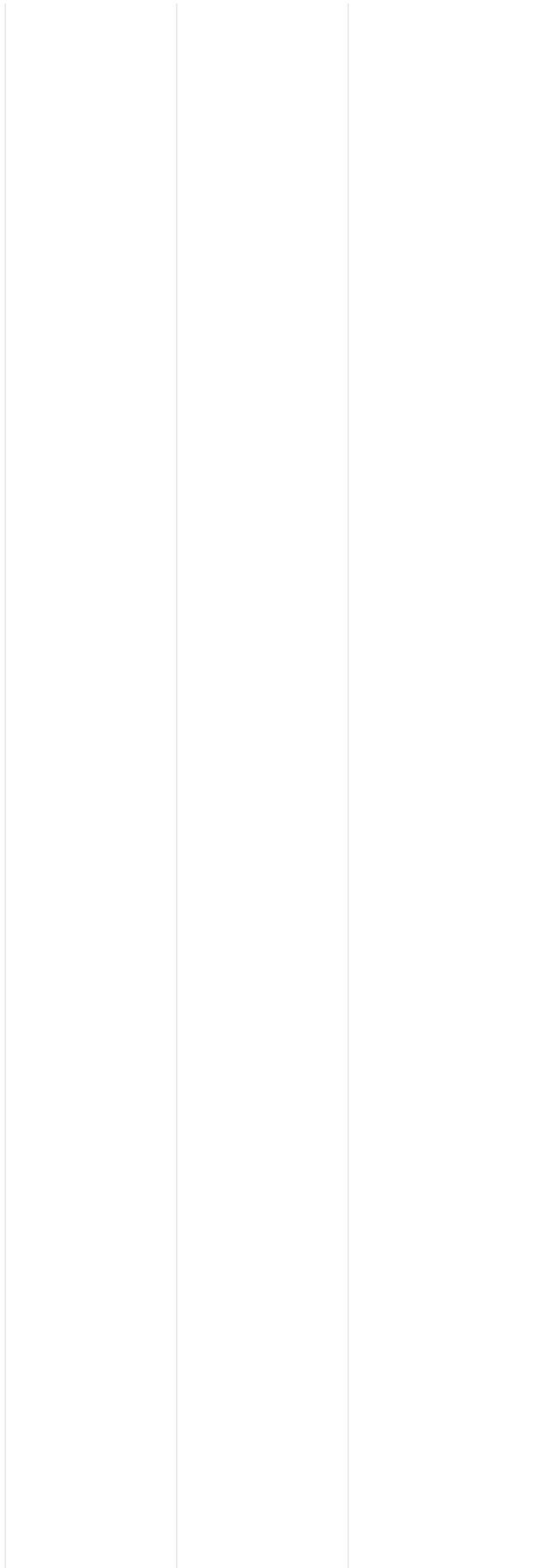


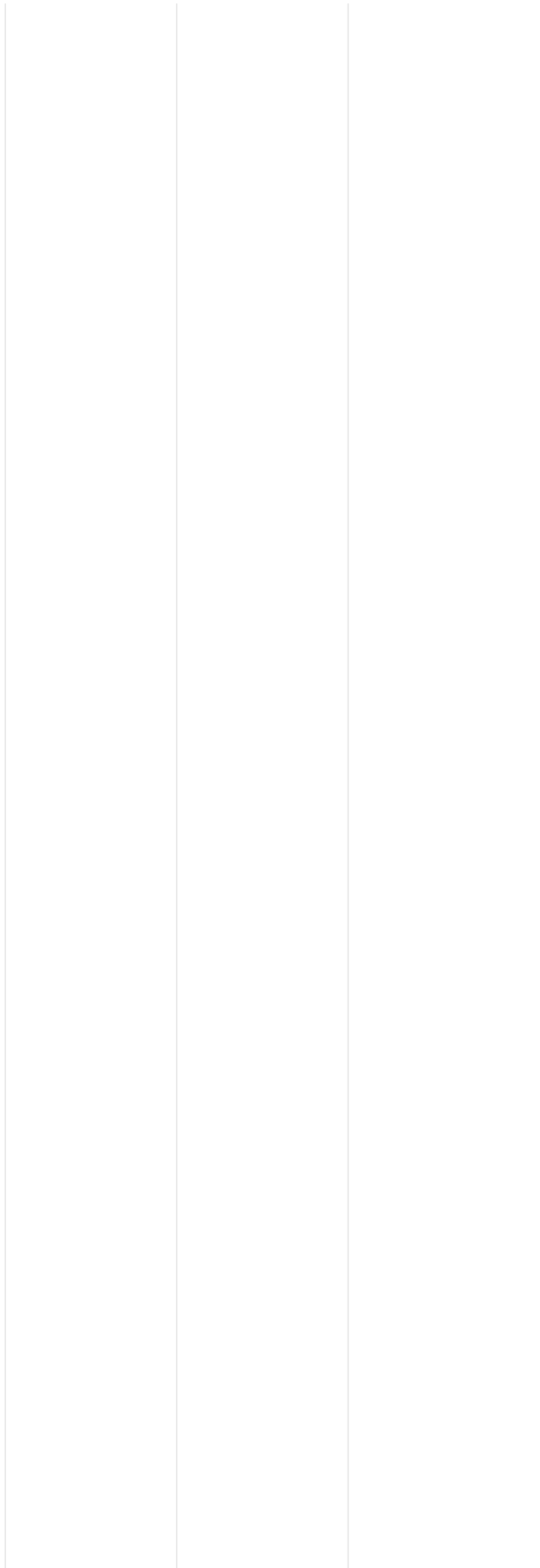


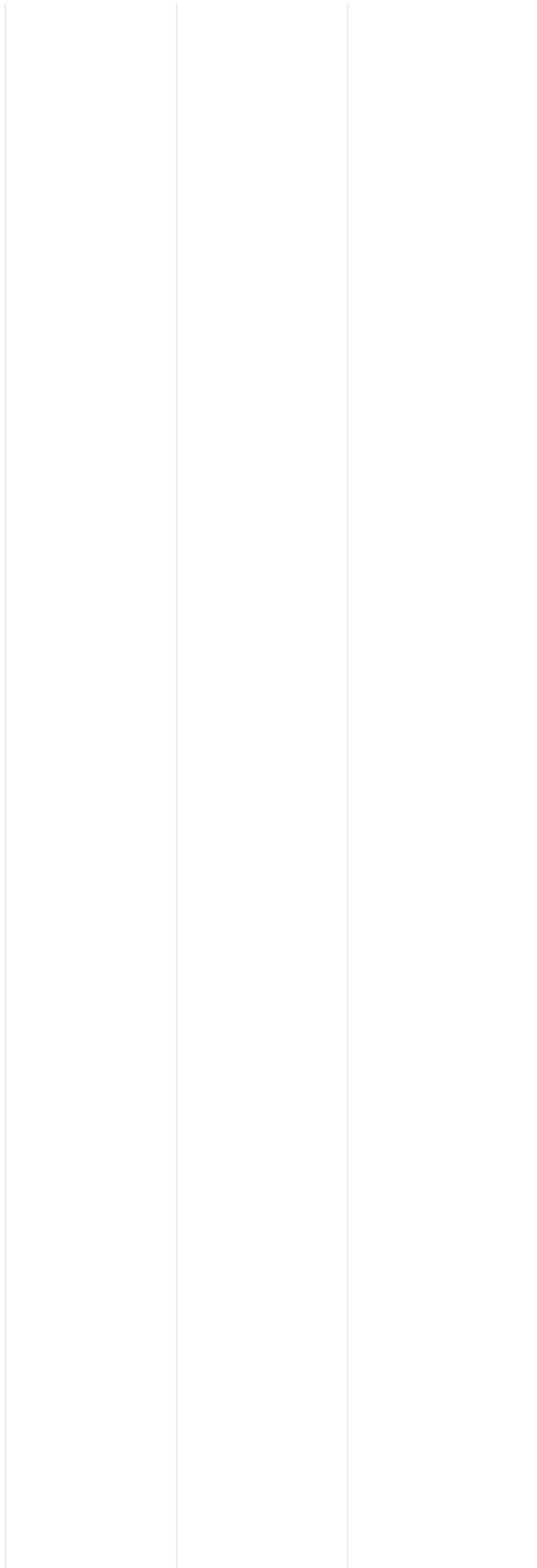














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