

世俗化与宗教

Secularization and Religion

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[英文提要]

Secularization is considered one of the most important topics in the theory and practice of the sociology of religion. In this paper, secularization is defined in terms of a disenchantment of the world or rationalization in the social process. This process has led to the diminution or dissolution of the value society traditionally gives to religious thought, practice, and institutions. As a result, many areas of life in society are no longer influenced by religion, thus bringing about structural societal change, forcing religion to adapt to secular values, or to retreat from the public arena into the privacy of people's spiritual lives, where religious sensitivity and spirituality suffer further decline. By looking at various related theories, this article presents an in depth study of the origins of secularization, its different manifestations, its impact on modern society and on the future of religion.

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