

工商与职业中的圣约：一个天主教的视角

Biblical Covenants in Business and the Professions:

A Catholic Perspective

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[英文提要]

In what follows I intend to offer a Catholic perspective on this common Western legacy of covenantal discourse. It may serve as a reminder that covenantal discourse defines an arena for the exploration of meaningful disagreement as well as overarching consensus. Covenantal discourse, everyone may agree in principle, tends to promote democracy and human rights, but it does not in and of itself warrant any single interpretation of what democracy and human rights are, or how these should be institutionalized in nations with diverse histories and cultures. Catholic and Protestant perspectives on the covenant may overlap on some issues and diverge on others, because a Catholic interpretation of covenantal discourse tends to draw more deeply on the social practices of premodern and preReformation Christianity, and view them more appreciatively. Catholicism's relationship to modernization, in short, is different from that played out in the history of Reformed Protestantism.

My paper proceeds in the following manner. First, I sketch a brief history of the social forms of covenantal community that developed within preReformation Christianity, with particular emphasis on the history of

Western monasticism, and offer a few observations on how these covenantal social forms have contributed to premodern Western economic and social development. Second, I offer some remarks on what I take to be their ongoing relevance for the development of business and professional ethics in a covenantal perspective. Finally, I conclude with some very brief remarks on how these resources may make a contribution in China today.

近年来,在“约”的框架内探讨工商与职业伦理在美国已成为相当普遍之事了。约之话语不再仅限于新教徒在宗教改革传统范围内的使用^①。美国天主教的主教鼓励教徒们在约的意义上考虑经济生活。^②至少已有一位有影响的工商伦理学家,劳拉·娜什,已发展了其“约的工商伦理”的构想,但她并未发展其中圣经的或神学的预设。^③在美国的工商与职业伦理方面约之话语的应用标志着一种道德严肃感的提升。那些将他们伦理的反省置于约的框架之内的人倾向于怀疑工商与职业伦理能完全由诸如商务合同中的明确规条的法律责任所穷尽,或是由某种基于理性私利基础之上的社会契约所穷尽。约之话语提示一种开放的承诺,超越以上两种契约性义务,在所有工商与职业关系中对社会正义进行更全面的关怀。

约之话语的开放性不可避免地唤起了灵性关怀。在由基督教传统所塑造的美国公众文化中,约之话语必然与圣经的灵性与道德训示共鸣,并且为我们的公共企业带来基督教会的社会实践

^① See Max DePree, *Leadership is an Art*, Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1989.

^② See the pastoral letter of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy" (1986), in *Catholic Social Thought: The Documentary Heritage*, David J. O'Brien and Thomas A. Shannon, eds., Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1992, pp. 572-680.

^③ See Laura L. Nash, *Good Intentions Aside: A Manager's Guide to Resolving Ethical Problems*, Boston, Massachusetts: Harvard Business School Press, 1993.