

宗教作為一種社會文化體系的性質和作用

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摘要

宗教和其他一切社會現象一樣，是人類社會發展到一定階段所創造出的產物。一切人類的創造，本質上都是人類按照自身生存的需要把人性物件化，使自然人性化，於是才創造出一個新的、異於人的物件，此即人類所說的「文化」。宗教就是人類創造出來的社會文化現象。

宗教諸要素（宗教觀念、宗教體驗、宗教行爲、宗教體制）對社會文化的各方面都有重要的影響，展現了宗教的社會文化功能。

宗教的靈魂觀念、神靈觀念和神性觀念引發了自然與超自然的思考，既產生了論證超自然實體的宗教神學和唯心主義哲學，也激發起把超自然還原為自然的自然神學和唯物主義哲學。宗教感情的宣洩展現為各種形式的藝術，宗教行爲對社會危機、倫理道德、社會習俗的形成也起重要作用；宗教體制甚至對社會政治制度的形成與鞏固產生重要的影響。

關鍵字：文化、宗教、社會現象、社會文化、功能、宗教觀念、宗教經驗、宗教行爲、宗教體制

The Essence and Role of Religion as A Social-cultural System

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Abstract

Like all other social phenomena, religion is the creation of human being at a proper social stage. In essence, all human creativities are objectivization of his own character and humanization of nature. Therefore a new alienation from human physical existence emerged, constituting so-called human culture. In this milieu religion has come to besocial-cultural phenomenon of man's creation.

The fundamentals of religion including religious concepts, religious experiences, religious behavior and religious institutions are seen extremely influential in all perspectives of social and cultural life, exhibiting the social and cultural function of religion. The concepts of soul, spirituality and divinity stimulates man's deep thoughts on nature and super-nature, resulting in religious theology and idealist philosophy aimed at super-natural reality. As its counterpart, natural theology and materialist philosophy are also brought forth to reestablish nature from super-nature. The religious expression gives rise to arts in various forms. Religious behavior exercises vital influence upon social crisis, morality and habits. And also, religious institutions influences the social political system greatly in its been making and consolidating.

Keywords: cultural, religion, social phenomena, social-cultural, function, religious concepts, religious experiences, religious behavior and religious institutions