

A Theory of Religion

By Rodney Stark, William Bainbridge

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In this unique text, Stark and Bainbridge begin with basic statements about human nature and, employing the principles of logic and philosophy, build toward increasingly complex propositions about societies and their religious institutions. They provide a rigorous yet flexible sociological theory of religion as well as a general sociological model for deriving macrolevel theory from microlevel evidence.

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Editorial Review

Review

«Stark and Bainbridge have made pioneering and enduring efforts in writing this book, and to a large extent they have been successful in their attempt to explain deductively why and how the phenomena of religion occur.» (K.Peter Takayama, Journal of Church and State)

«This study is generally clear and coherent, and provides fresh, interesting sidelights on the ebb and flow of religious groupings as human organizations.» (David J.Casey, Theological Studies)

«By demonstrating that the main propositions of the sociology of religion have a logical coherence, the authors have made a decisive contribution to their discipline.» (Winston Davis, The Journal of Religion)

«...the finest consistent application of the deductive method for the construction of a sociological theory of religion. The value of 'A Theory of Religion' lies in the distance it carries sociology toward a scientific theory of religion and in the sustained rigor of its deductive application. It is a 'must read'.» (Thomas Ryba, Zygon)

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