
Contents

Series Foreword	ix
Translator's Introduction	xi
Part I	
Secularization: Critique of a Category of Historical Wrong	
1 Status of the Concept	3
2 A Dimension of Hidden Meaning?	13
3 Progress Exposed as Fate	27
4 Instead of Secularization of Eschatology, Secularization by Eschatology	37
5 Making History So As to Exonerate God?	53
6 The Secularization Thesis as an Anachronism in the Modern Age	63
7 The Supposed Migration of the Attribute of Infinity	77
8 Political Theology I and II	89
9 The Rhetoric of Secularizations	103

Part II

Theological Absolutism and Human Self-Assertion

Introduction	125
1 The Failure of the First Attempt at Warding Off Gnosticism Ensures Its Return	127
2 World Loss and Demiurgic Self-Determination	137
3 A Systematic Comparison of the Epochal Crisis of Antiquity to That of the Middle Ages	145
4 The Impossibility of Escaping a Deceiving God	181
5 Cosmogony as a Paradigm of Self-Constitution	205

Part III

The 'Trial' of Theoretical Curiosity

Introduction	229
1 The Retraction of the Socratic Turning	243
2 The Indifference of Epicurus's Gods	263
3 Skepticism Contains a Residue of Trust in the Cosmos	269
4 Preparations for a Conversion and Models for the Verdict of the 'Trial'	279
5 Curiosity Is Enrolled in the Catalog of Vices	309
6 Difficulties Regarding the 'Natural' Status of the Appetite for Knowledge in the Scholastic System	325
7 Preludes to a Future Overstepping of Limits	343
8 Interest in Invisible Things within the World	361
9 Justifications of Curiosity as Preparation for the Enlightenment	377
10 Curiosity and the Claim to Happiness: Voltaire to Kant	403
11 The Integration into Anthropology: Feuerbach and Freud	437

Part IV**Aspects of the Epochal Threshold: The Cusan and the Nolan**

1 The Epochs of the Concept of an Epoch	457
2 The Cusan: The World as God's Self-Restriction	483
3 The Nolan: The World as God's Self-Exhaustion	549
Notes	597
Name Index	671