
SUMMARIES

Civil Religion in the Netherlands

by L. Laeyendecker

The term Civil Religion has been coined by Rousseau. It points to a general religion as the basis for societal integration. This idea can be found in the works of Comte, Durkheim and modern functionalists. Recently Bellah has investigated the Civil Religion of the United States of America. He describes a more specific type that points to a religious interpretation of America history in terms of biblical archetypes; Tuveson adds that it has strong millennial connotations. According to Bellah every society has 'some sort of Civil Religion', This statement has been qualified by various authors. There is a relative unanimity that in The Netherlands there can be no Civil Religion. In this article that statement has been investigated with respect to two periods in Dutch history, the 80-years war and the nineteenth century. An analysis of the so-called Beggar songs reveals a biblical type of Civil Religion and essays of the Dutch Society for the Common Good contain a Rousseauian type. However, some marginal notes are in order.

War in a Babylon – the British 'riots' in perspective

by Terry Jones

This article does not only discuss the underlying 'conditions' and 'causes' behind the British 'riots' of 1981, which are relatively easy to identify, but also why they occurred on such a scale only in 1981 and why they took their particular form. Following on from this the article discusses the significance of the 'riots' in social and political terms. The article first of all identifies the socio-economic background to the 'riots' before turning to a discussion of the riot as a form of popular protest in British history, and the significance of the role played by young blacks in re-introducing the riot to the British mainland. Lastly, there is a brief discussion of the relevance of 'reformism' in the context of economic recession and of the relevance of the British experience to Dutch society.

Modern-capitalist industrialists and political liberalization in The Netherlands during the period 1845 till 1848: a partial test of the bourgeois thesis

by A. Th. Derksen

This article provides a partial test of the so-called bourgeois thesis. It states that the rise of the capitalist mode of production caused a process of democratization in autocratic national governments. The bourgeoisie, the carrier of the capitalist development, should have realised this political turn. It is told further that she did so by reasons of material self-interest: an autocratic style of government would be a main hindrance to the maturing of capitalism. As said before, this article tests the bourgeois thesis in a partial manner. It is examined whether a special category of the Dutch modern-capitalist bourgeoisie – industrialists

producing by means of steampower – supported some national movements aiming at political liberalization of the national government during the period 1845 till 1848. These campaigns preluded the well-known constitutional reform which took place in that latest year. After an investigation of various historical records and a wide quantity of social-economic literature – necessary to identify the modern-capitalist manufactures – it could be ascertained that only a very little minority of them behaved in the predicted way. The article concludes with the guess that this falsification may be ascribed to the economic policy of the Dutch government, which stimulated modern industrialization.

Regression to the mean; a methodological note

by Jos Dessens and Wim Jansen

'Regression to the mean' is illustrated; an explanation of the phenomenon is given; the reader is cautioned against the pitfall of interpreting results as theoretically highly relevant instead of possibly caused by 'regression to the mean'. A remedy in case of knowing the reliability of the measuring instrument is provided.