

Until recently we used to believe that the end of religion is upon us. We could notice in western societies a decrease of religious activity in the public sphere, a descent of churches' power and a drop of participation in religious practices. However it seems that religion is not going to go away. Right now we can observe a religious turn in philosophy and social science and an advent of postsecularism.

One of the important figures in today's debate on the future of religion is John Milbank, an Anglican theologian. In the nineties he developed his own vision of Christianity, knowingly combining postmodern philosophy with early Christian and medieval thought. Thanks to his great erudition Milbank was able to establish a dialog between theology and philosophy.

Milbank diagnoses a social and cultural crisis of the Western world and presents a project of postliberalism, which is supposed to address contemporary threats. English theologian puts forward an original combination of corporatism, Christian socialism and neomedieval look at international politics. This construction is meant to overcome a hegemony of liberalism and capitalism in order to restore a domination of Christianity in the social order.

Milbank's influence is made visible by the theological group known as radical orthodoxy, which he helped to establish. This extensive movement is highly critical of modernity and claims that only theology can respond to the needs of contemporary societies. Its rejection of secularity sounds with findings of those social scientists who argue for the postsecular nature of our time.

But is it true that secularism entails nihilism, as Milbank claims? Are we really have to abandon liberalism in order to realise values essential to our society? Is capitalism inseparable from liberalism? Can Christianity incorporate the postmodern proposition that there is no privileged way of thinking and abstain from absolutizing its own subject of faith? Are there feasible alternatives to religion omitted by Milbank?

The project will help to find answers to those questions. The research will be based on qualitative methods, because of the nature of its subject. A critical analysis will be carried out with use of hermeneutical method and it will concentrate on source literature in English. Due to the nature of Milbank's works, the project will be trans-disciplinary and address issues in the field of theology, philosophy and social sciences.

Implementing the project will contribute to better understanding of religion's place in contemporary societies and political significance of religion. At the same time, it can help to popularize Milbank's philosophy and enrich the Polish debate concerning postsecularism.