

Religion as Political Postulate in Inoue Enryō

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The academic discourse about religion in modern Japan not only led to new theoretical reflections about religious doctrine, but also to a proto-sociological analysis of religious institutions and practices. On his first inspection tour to the West, Inoue Enryō examined the institutional relationship between religion and the state in the imperial countries. In his philosophical attempt to legitimize religion under the modern circumstances Inoue Enryō undertook a functional analysis of religion in the framework of the nation state. Rather than making positive claims of religious or metaphysical truth, he explored arguments that postulate religion as an indispensable complement to politics. By enhancing morality, optimism, and mental peace of the people religion secures the social stability that first allows for the successful operation of the state.