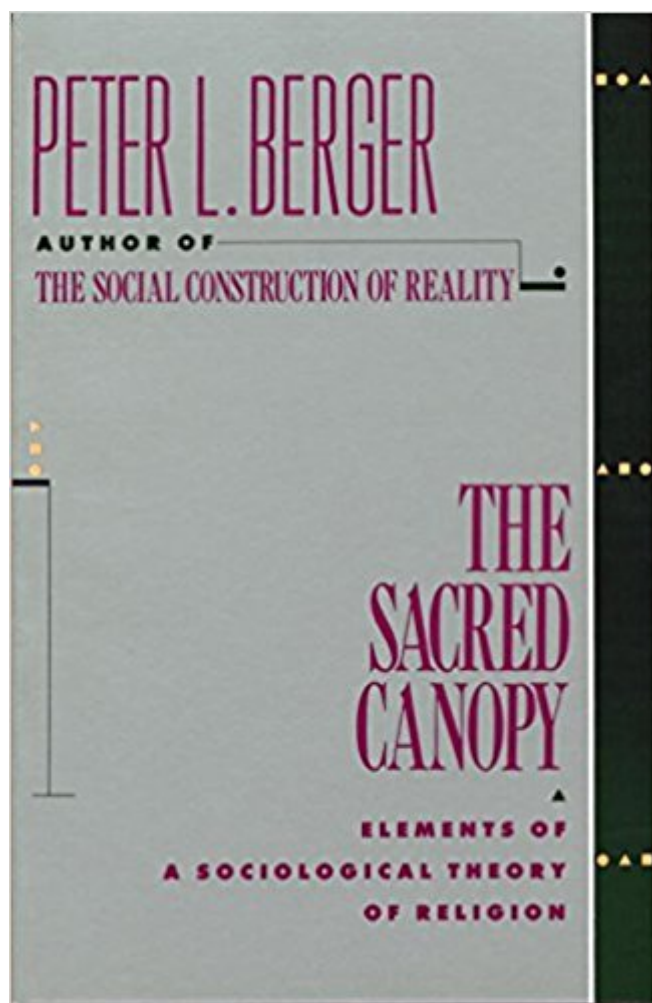


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# The Sacred Canopy: Elements Of A Sociological Theory Of Religion



## Synopsis

This absorbing and original examination brilliantly argues that religion is a product of the society from which it springs--that it is the "sacred canopy" which every human society builds over its world to give it meaning. In this book, Berger expands on theories of knowledge that he first explored (with Thomas Luckmann) in *The Social Construction of Reality*. With illustrations drawn from a variety of primitive, ancient, and contemporary religions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This important contribution to the sociology of religion provides an analysis that clarifies the often ironic interaction between religion and society. Berger is noted for his concise and lucid style.

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Very "dense" but clear. It takes some wading to read, but it makes itself unmistakable. Pleased with it.

Berger's book, whether you agree with his likely personal beliefs or not, takes a person through religion and how religion functions within society to the secularization and pluralism of America. Well-written and a must-read to understand culture and religion.

Very dry and academic. Used for sociology class but continue to use it for other classes.

I love reading Berger. Even if I don't always agree with him, his conclusions are typically interesting and well formed. I was glad to have a chance to read him for a course.

Really, really foundational.

This book is a must for anyone interested in the study or experience of religion in the modern world. Part one highlights the human need for meaning and order that is rooted in something less transient than human existence, and the way religion functions as a "shield" against various existential terrors. Although somewhat dated, the analysis of modern religion presented in part two is valuable for its discussions of how secularization has roots within religion itself, and how the relationships between religious denominations and the rest of society can be profitably described in terms borrowed from market economics. The book is highly readable, frequently funny, and provides a lucid introduction to a particular sociology of knowledge as well as a useful perspective on religion.

Great. Read it for a class. Really enjoyed it.

Although Berger has since renounced some of his secularization theses, this is one of the most influential 20th century works in the study of religion. His considerations of bureaucracy and cosmology remain relevant and are not utilized enough. Anyone drawing on Casanova's work should pay attention to how much he retains from this classic work.

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