Abstract

Signs of Postmodern Secularism. The Decline of the Divine Transcendence? The secular nature of modern humanism with its strong renaissance ancestry stems from the popularity of natural sciences at the time. During the Modern Age, human reason became the ultimate authority so that anything revealed by scientific research was regarded as Truth. Scientific research followed a pattern or model based on the hypothesis - deduction method. It had been the prevailing model since Galileo as a result of its undeniable success in the field of the so called "hard" sciences. The age in which all truth stemmed from the authority of the Church and also from the Revelation as its instrument and source lay far behind in history. Alongside this major paradigmatic change lies another change which was a concurrent by-product of the former. It involved the creation of utopias or earthly paradises as alternatives to the traditional political systems. The first utopias emerged from a socio-religious mesh though within widely humanistic contexts. Gradually, modern utopian thinking lost its religious referent and acquired referential frameworks that parted away from transcendence until it became deeply rooted in an absolutely rich, materialistic and immanent soil. Postmodernism as the antithesis of the Modern project, claims to be anti utopian and fulfills its objectives by way of two overlapping fronts: political unification with globalization serving as its instrument and religious unification or at best its own dissolution in a "light" religiosity.