

C.S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society

C.S. Lewis was a prolific writer, theologian, and literary critic. He is best known for his works of fiction, including *The Chronicles of Narnia*, but he also wrote extensively on religion, science, and society. In this essay, we will explore Lewis's views on science, scientism, and society. We will begin by examining his definition of science and his belief that science is a valuable tool for understanding the world. We will then discuss his concerns about scientism, the belief that science is the only way to understand the world. Finally, we will explore his vision for a society that embraces both science and religion.



The Magician's Twin: C. S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society by John G. West

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Science and Scientism

Lewis defined science as "the attempt to discover order and relation in the facts of experience." He believed that science is a valuable tool for understanding the world because it allows us to see the world in a new

way. "The man who has no scientific training," Lewis wrote, "is like a man who can see only one side of the moon."

However, Lewis was also concerned about scientism, the belief that science is the only way to understand the world. He believed that scientism is a dangerous ideology because it leads to a narrow and materialistic view of the world. "Scientism," Lewis wrote, "is the belief that all reality is reducible to the physical world and that all human knowledge is derived from science."

Lewis argued that scientism is a reductionist philosophy that fails to account for the full range of human experience. He believed that there are aspects of human experience that cannot be explained by science, such as love, beauty, and morality.

Science and Religion

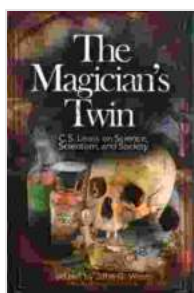
Lewis believed that science and religion are not incompatible. He argued that science can help us to understand the world, while religion can help us to understand our place in the world. "Science," Lewis wrote, "can tell us what the world is made of, but it cannot tell us what it is for."

Lewis believed that religion is essential for human flourishing. He argued that religion provides us with a sense of meaning and purpose in life. "Religion," Lewis wrote, "is the cement of society."

C.S. Lewis was a brilliant writer and thinker who had a profound understanding of science, scientism, and society. He believed that science is a valuable tool for understanding the world, but he also warned against the dangers of scientism. He argued that religion is essential for human

flourishing, but he also believed that science and religion can coexist peacefully.

Lewis's insights into science, scientism, and society are still relevant today. In a world that is increasingly complex and uncertain, we need to find ways to embrace both science and religion. We need to use science to understand the world around us, but we also need to use religion to find meaning and purpose in our lives.



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