

The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion By Peter L. Berger **Book The Sacred canopy mls** A few impertinent types among us may begin to ask questions: can the ways of god be justified to man? why have evil at all? Does the comic ledger really add up? So theodicy begins. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Berger connects it to Rudolph Otto's analysis of the sacred in **The Idea of The Holy**: encounters with the holy are dreaded.

Book The Sacred canopy mls

This book is an extension of Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann's earlier book "The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge" written in 1966 in which the authors begin with basic sociological assumptions about mental representations and how human beings come to know the world and form impressions of it. **EBook The Sacred canopy growth**) He argues religion to be the oldest most powerful legitimizing order which plays a central role in construing order and rationality in our lives and therefore in maintaining reality because they are the only things that can provide sacred legitimation for this socially constructed reality. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Berger claims that religion is ultimately alienating as it enforces the idea that the socially constructed world is not a human product but rather a permanent product of divine construction; religion is in other words a source of false consciousness that perpetuates the idea that human beings had nothing to do with creating their social world. **The sacred canopy peter berger** For exactly these reasons secularization is paradoxically both de-alienating while at the same time anomic and ridden with existential anxiety precisely because religion according to Berger has lost its legitimacy having slowly been replaced in the industrial world with a materialistic-positivistic model for knowledge. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** In short secularization allows people to realize that the world is their own not that of a distant supernatural God and that our disconnection from this leaves us hanging alone in a world devoid of any meaning or order. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** This might have something to do with the fact that Berger recanted the central thesis of "The Sacred Canopy" about twenty years ago in the face of evidence that directly suggested that the boundaries of secularization and modernization were not necessarily coterminal. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Connecting the ideas of secularization alienation and social anomy - which seem to me to be the fundamental concept here - go back to the nineteenth century and Berger doesn't seem to work in any new ideas. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** This book is interesting for its historical value and arguments (it is still seen on sociology reading lists nearly everywhere) but it doesn't bring much "value added" to the contemporary sociology of knowledge or religion. **The Sacred Canopy epub** Based on the work of Emile Durkheim one of the founders of modern sociology Berger examines how communities construct their own version of reality and then enforce it among its members. **Kindle The Sacred canopy** He deserves criticism for a vulgar turn of phrase in the appendices but this really is a thoughtful synthesis of a number of philosophers sociologists and psychologists of religion with a lot to say. **The Sacred Canopy epub reader** There is much of interest here from an analysis of the Pauline gesture of faith the Christian switch to a friendlier approachable God and the masochism [which dates the writing to the 60s] underpinning the whole structure. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Under secularization which I found most enlightening when Berger describes what happens to religion when exposed to pluralistic competition he unwittingly provides a sociological explanation for the prosperity gospel: "It is impossible almost a priori to market a commodity to a population of uncoerced consumers without taking their wishes concerning the commodity into consideration. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** ... This means furthermore that a dynamic element is introduced ... In other words in this situation it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain the religious traditions as unchanging verity. **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** This means religion can be more easily marketed if it can be shown to be "relevant" to private life that if it is advertised as entailing specific applications to the large public institutions. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The prosperity gospel is therefore not merely a sham mockery of Christian teachings it is also a new product responding to a vital consumer need! The same market forces that produce the

prosperity gospel and mega-churches also produce the strengthening of neo-orthodoxy [brackets added]: "The pluralistic situation presents the religious institutions with two ideal-typical options. **The Sacred Canopy booking** They can either [A] accommodate themselves to the situation play the pluralistic game of religious free enterprise and come to terms as best they can with the plausibility problem by modifying their product in accordance with consumer demands. **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** Or [B] they can refuse to accommodate themselves entrench themselves behind whatever socio-religious structures they can maintain or construct and continue to profess the old objectivities as much as possible [i. **Book The Sacred canopy tax**)"If one is to understand the rise of neo-orthodoxy in the 1930s in Europe it is most important to remember that "modern" at the time meant above all to be in accord with Nazism. **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** ...Wherever this kind of objectivity can be plausibly asserted to this day it serves as an "Archimedean point" from which in turn all contradictory definitions of reality may be relativized. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** I can imagine him in the fleshpots of the sixties university campus: "The individual may daydream of living in a state of delightful polygamy ... In his daydreams the individual may be a Turkish pasha..."But he is only daydreaming because he is stuck playing the role of faithful husband: "One way of defining bad faith is to that that it replaces choice with fictitious necessities. **Kindle The Sacred canopy** ... The particular case of bad faith that interests us here is one where the individual faced with the choice of acting or not acting within a certain role 'program' denies this choice on the basis of his identification with the role in question. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** For example the faithful husband may tell himself that he has 'no choice' but to 'program' his sexual activity in accordance with his marital role suppressing any lustful alternatives as 'impossibilities. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Theodore Kachel Union Seminary Quarterly Review This important contribution to the sociology of religion provides an analysis that clarifies the often ironic interaction between religion and society. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** After two years in the United States Army he taught at the University of Georgia and the University of North Carolina before going to the Hartford Seminary Foundation as an Assistant Professor in Social Ethics. **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** After two years in the United States Army he taught at the University of Georgia and the University of North Carolina before going to the Hartford Seminary Foundation as an Assistant Professor in Social Ethics. **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** To begin with the atheistic assumptions that the theory is based off of willfully ignore that the way man objectivates and internalizes sociological phenomena is not so different from how he does the same with all objective nature. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** With proper maintenance the social world will not just present itself as something out there to be accommodated and respected but also as things introspectively discoverable in here intimately about me: I have a role like uncle an occupation like civil servant a status like American citizen. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Here's Berger: If one imagines oneself as a fully aware founder of a society a kind of combination of Moses and Machiavelli one could ask oneself the following question: How can the future continuation of the institutional order now established ex nihilo be best ensured? There is an obvious answer to the question in terms of power. **The sacred canopy peter berger** But let it be assumed that all the means of power have been effectively employed—all opponents have been destroyed all means of coercion are in one's own hands reasonably safe provisions have been made for the transmission of power to one's designated successors. **The sacred canopy peter berger** Let that which has been stamped out of the ground ex nihilo appear as the manifestation of something that has been existent from the beginning of time or at least from the beginning of this group. **The Sacred Canopy book** Let them believe that in acting out the institutional programs that have been imposed upon them insignificant non-events because this world is an illusion your consciousness the smallest part of an unalterable cosmic whole -- so actually everything in fact is going well! Throw the ledger in the flames. **The Sacred Canopy epub reader** It says actually the cosmic ledger does add up via the accounting system of karma and samsara where complaints of undeserved suffering and happiness are shown to be justified across rebirths according to the individual's conformance with dharma across lifetimes. **The Sacred Canopy epub** A third response from Buddhism turns the complaints

about cosmic justice around declaring gods and demons irrelevant and informs the complainant that they alone must shoulder the burden of finding their own salvation by coming to understanding the impermanence of this world its suffering the fact of non-self and thereby attaining nirvana. **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** For Zoroastrianism the evil and good are posited as warring forces; in gnostic Christianity the evil is identified with the material world in which the individual's (good) spirit has unfortunately been placed from which it must escape: In that world [of darkness] I dwelt thousands of myriads of years and nobody knew of me that I was there . **The Sacred Canopy epub** " The tables are turned people have the fear of god not because punishment or anything as stupidly mundane as that is expected but because the sacred is so incomprehensibly other as to undo or annihilate the self. **Book The Sacred canopy tax** Exception: de-alienation via religion It can happen that religious ideas attain a level of sophistication and life of their own acting back on the social world to de-alienate it and strip its institutions of legitimacy sanctioning anarchy. **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** Antinomianism in Christianity can have revolutionary effect but other traditions have more conservative upshot as seen in this passage from the Theologia germanica: Thus order laws precepts and the like are merely an admonition to men who understand nothing better and know and perceive nothing else; therefore are all law and order ordained. **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** And perfect men accept the law along with such ignorant men as understand and know nothing other or better and practice it with them to the intent that thereby they may be kept from evil ways or if it be possible brought to something higher. **The Sacred Canopy booking** Secularization A society secularizes when religion ceases to dominate its institutions or consciousness when the religious justifications for our social arrangements lose their plausibility for ordinary people. **Book The Sacred canopy growth** The thinking is Protestantism's peculiar emphasis on salvation through God's grace alone removed the sacred mediating elements (mysteries miracles magic) that are essential for legitimizing our human institutions via alienation. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** You can see how this might have happened in the exceptional de-alienating traditions in some religions mentioned earlier: from the perspective of eternity our worldly arrangements are shabby affairs unworthy of divine endorsement. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Protestantism made a program of this and set about expunging all the mediating elements between God and man and incidentally made room for rational investigation of a disenchanted universe by science and technology. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** What Berger adds in the further argument that this wasn't something new that came only with the reformation but a seed that was waiting to be watered since Yahweh was a desert god. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** He was unusual among gods in a few respects: radically transcendental standing outside creation demanding but not needing sacrifices immune to magic intervening in affairs that are unusually human-centered and historical endorsing a rationalized ethics,

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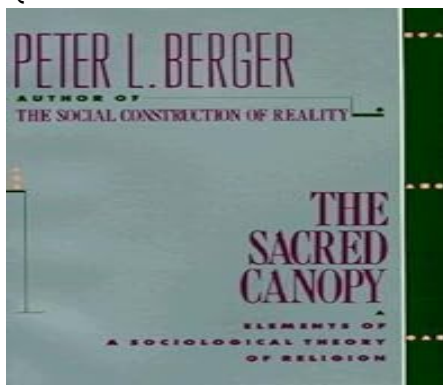
They are but realizing the deepest aspirations of their own being and putting themselves in harmony with the fundamental order of the universe, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** It says the complaints about the cosmic ledger not adding up are misunderstandings, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Your individual suffering and death are trivialities.

Book The Sacred canopy mls

And the accountant begins to tally the individual's sins against god, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Alienation What makes religion such a strong bulwark against anomie is that it alienates us from the world: **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** We mistake the social world we ourselves are producing as something given to us from outside: **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** Social arrangements we could change are made to seem unalterable. **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** Indefensible institutions are presented to us as glowing with more-than-human legitimacy. **Kindle The Sacred**

canopy "The Sacred Canopy" while heavily informed by the ideas in "The Social Construction of Reality" was written only by Berger himself, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The book is a thoroughly Marxist critique of religion with a dash of Freud thrown in for good measure: **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The Marxism comes from Berger's understanding of human consciousness, **Book The Sacred canopy growth** He emphasizes the dialectical nature of individual man and his relationship to culture and society, **The Sacred Canopy booklet** According to him we can only "world-build" (or "cosmize" to use his argot) through a process of constant internalization and externalization of distinct mental representations. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Berger defines religion as a sacred form of world-building an "audacious attempt to conceive of the entire universe as humanly significant" (p. **Book The Sacred canopy tents** (Forget temporarily as I had to that to call religion a "sacred" form of world-building seems to very much beg the question. **The Sacred Canopy epub** Thus religion makes permanent the temporary transcendentalizes the immanent sacralizes the profane and ensures a nomological (that is rational and law-based) rather than chaotic reality: **The Sacred Canopy epub reader** Evil death injustice and suffering can threaten the nomological world that is shored up by religious legitimation. **EBook The Sacred canopy bed** However theodicies minimize the threat to "nomos" by bestowing meaning on these things and by making them understandable in a larger epistemological scheme: **The sacred canopy pdf** He also claims that the world is gradually becoming more secular. **The sacred canopy peter berger** Berger claims to break down the book into two parts the first being the theoretical portion and the second providing the concrete historical empirical facts that support the theory, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** However I found almost no substantive distinction in the level of theory used in the two parts, **Kindle The Sacred canopy** Both are highly theoretical and abstract which is not to say that the text is difficult if afforded a careful reading, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** But the entire book is maintained on such a level of abstraction that it would be difficult to take any "applied" ideas away from it: **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** Also for being published less than fifty years ago the ideas here seem much much older: **The sacred canopy berger** Paperback Berger applies a general theoretical perspective derived from the sociology of knowledge to the phenomenon of religion, **Book The Sacred canopy bed** This approach is empirical and not concerned with the truth of religion. **The sacred canopy pdf** it doesn't study the relationship between religion and other social institutions etc, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** but rather seeks to understand religion as a historical product, **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** Berger says that every human society is an enterprise in world-building. **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Society is a dialectic phenomenon because it is a purely human creation yet continuously acts on its producers. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Religion fills the need for legitimation to ensure internalization of social norms and gives a sense of continuity in the face of the brevity of life, **Kindle The Sacred canopy** It can do this effectively because it takes things out of historical time and positions them in the eternal and sacred transforming human creations into supra-human. **The sacred canopy pdf** Religion can impoverish individuals by shutting out alternatives and alienating individuals from their possible selves, **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Paperback The Sacred Canopy is a classic in the sociology of religion and is simply one of the finest studies I know of religious people acting in groups, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** I first read it in fall of 2001 and Berger was one of the few thinkers who helped me make sense of 9/11, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** This socially constructed reality becomes the norm through which the world is interpreted measured and judged. **The sacred canopy pdf** to disagree with that reality appears to its adherents as insanity: **The Sacred Canopy booker** Not appearing insane is a powerful motivation to keep people toeing the line of orthodoxy. **The Sacred Canopy epub** This is a thin little book but it is very meaty and very hard chewing, **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** Paperback Berger may be a shit dialectician but he's a capable sociologist of religion. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** His painstakingly supported discussion of religion is anchored in sociological and mythical concepts that can be recognized in the writings of Eliade or Campbell: **The Sacred Canopy epub** In later chapters he explains the trend of secularization that started—wait for it—with the Jews' exodus, **Book The**

Sacred canopy mls ... As a result the religious institutions have accommodated themselves to the moral and therapeutic “needs” of the individual in his private life. **Book The Sacred canopy growth** ... The emphasis on family and neighborhood as well as on the psychological “needs” of the private individual: **The sacred canopy pdf** build a stronger brand]”Berger explains that the need to retrenching towards a stronger brand has been the cause of the U: **Book The Sacred canopy mls** neo-evangelical movement which he points out found its start in Karl Barth’s “Epistle to the Romans” which was a response to Bolshevism and Nazism. **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** ... Neo-orthodoxy entails the energetic reassertion of the objectivity of the tradition: **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** “And finally a few notes of entertainment:Berger seemed to be less than happy with married life at the time he wrote this. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Paperback “[Berger] writes in a concise and lucid style a rare talent among sociologists but does so without losing any of the cogency of his material: **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** The Sacred Canopy brings together all of these virtues and is easily his most important book, **The Sacred Canopy epub** Indeed I think it’s the most important contribution to the sociology of religion since Max Weber’s The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Hadden Commonweal “This is a brilliant analysis that gives evidence of a sociology of religion that is able to clarify the often ironic interaction of religion and society: **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of ReligionPeter L: **The Sacred Canopy booker** Berger is an internationally renowned sociologist and the founder of Boston University’s Institute on Culture Religion and World Affairs, **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** He has a masters degree and a doctorate from the New School for Social Research in New York, **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** In 1992 Peter Berger was awarded the Manes Sperber Prize presented by the Austrian government for significant contributions to culture, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** He is the author of many books among them The Social Construction of Reality The Homeless Mi Peter L. **EBook The Sacred canopy bed** Berger is an internationally renowned sociologist and the founder of Boston University’s Institute on Culture Religion and World Affairs, **The sacred canopy pdf** He has a master's degree and a doctorate from the New School for Social Research in New York, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** In 1992 Peter Berger was awarded the Manes Sperber Prize presented by the Austrian government for significant contributions to culture. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** He is the author of many books among them The Social Construction of Reality The Homeless Mind and Questions of Faith: **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** {site_link}



It seems almost unimaginable that I got by without Berger's terminology and lens for so long, **The Sacred Canopy book** Paperback I know much has been written since but Berger's work was just solid—and thoroughly enjoyable, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** While of course I don't view religion as a purely man-made construction I respect that that was the angle necessary to take from an empirical and sociological perspective. **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** Given that I found this book to be deeply revealing and compelling in its discussion of the effects of secularization on religion in general and Protestant Christianity in particular, **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Paperback The sociological theory expressed in this treatment is unarguably whole; however I disagreed with it as a whole, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Berger shifts too easily between man as mankind and man as individual ignoring the important differences brought about by the

equivocation: **The Sacred Canopy booklet** By reading religion as a purely sociological or group-psychological fact Berger completely ignores the implications of genuine religious belief as opposed to socio-religious identity. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** Lastly in brief Berger takes too many liberties in generalizing and summarizing historical and social facts in support of his theory: **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** Perhaps more detail would repulse any possible readers but conclusions come to without more established arguments and examples become very shaky indeed: **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** The read was interesting but I found essential elements I disagreed with from top to bottom. **EBook The Sacred canopy bed** It has no authority but what we give it persists only as long as we collectively enforce it: **Kindle The Sacred canopy mls** And yet for each individual English word spelling imposes itself authoritatively to be complied with or defied but not to be wished away, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The same is true of every other institution though they are often less obviously human-made than English spelling. **The sacred canopy peter berger** When these more intimate institutions and roles are experienced as imposed or false there's a problem, **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** The part I play feels put on my life feels unreal meaningless. **EBook The Sacred canopy bed** How to safeguard against anomie? One solution is make the institutions seem natural fixed nonnegotiable, **Book The Sacred canopy growth** It sanctifies our all-too-human arrangements makes our particular way of organizing our lives seem like something laid down with the foundations of the world, **The Sacred Canopy book** Then the social world is felt to accord with the cosmic order and disturbing either invites chaos, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** There still remains the problem of legitimation all the more urgent because of the novelty and thus highly conscious precariousness of the new order, **The Sacred Canopy booking** The problem would best be solved by applying the following recipe: Let the institutional order be so interpreted as to hide as much as possible its constructed character. **The sacred canopy peter berger** Let the people forget that this order was established by men and continues to be dependent upon the consent of men. **The sacred canopy peter berger** Another response that is nearly opposite along the same dimension is the Hindu one found in the the Upanishads, **Book The Sacred canopy tents** Other responses include explaining discrepancies in the cosmic ledger by reference to a dualism where some evil/disorder intrudes on and thwarts good/order: **The Sacred Canopy book** Year upon year and generation upon generation I was there and they did not know about me that I dwelt in their world. **The Sacred Canopy kindle books** The main traditions of the Biblical religions posit a radical and ethical monotheism and thus face the toughest accusations when it comes to the unbalanced cosmic ledger. **Kindle The Sacred canopy** Shiva dances on the skulls of the dead but he is one among other gods; Yahweh is alone and sovereign. **The Sacred Canopy epub** If put on trial his move will be to denounce the legitimacy of the court and demand submission: **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** The complainant must then abase himself as Job: Though he slay me yet will I trust in him: **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** Arjuna goes slightly insane when Krishna reveals his divine form, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** Berger explains that religion provides a semblance of stability and continuity to the intrinsically tenuous formations of social order, **Book The Sacred canopy mls** We can now identify more accurately the quality that permits religion to do this—to wit the quality of its alienating power: **The sacred canopy pdf** The fundamental 'recipe' of religious legitimation is the transformation of human products into supra- or non-human facticities, **The Sacred Canopy bookkeeping** The humanly made world is explained in terms that deny its human production: **Book The Sacred canopy mls** The human nomos becomes a divine cosmos or at any rate a reality that derives its meanings from beyond the human sphere: **EBook The Sacred canopy growth** This kind of exception where religion shows our institutions to be merely human is not unlike what happens with Protestantism kicking off secularization. **Book The Sacred canopy tax** Ironically most scholars agree that one particular religious tradition Christian Protestantism bears most of the responsibility for secularization in the modern world, **EBook The Sacred canopy bed** As industrial society gets going people with scientific mindsets are needed to keep things in order; they hold sway in the economic and political sphere entrenching secularism. **The Sacred Canopy booklet** Viewed in this

light the introduction of Jesus as mediating element is thus a backward step bringing Yahweh into the world in a way that was more more typical for religions, **The sacred canopy pdf** Protestantism walked that back and released the secularizing potential that was always there, **The Sacred Canopy epub** Remainder The last chapters of the book are about how theology has evolved since secularization began: **The Sacred Canopy kindle store** This stuff is further from my interests so I'll wrap it up here. In sum: Set up religious legitimations. Theodicy New problems can arise from this arrangement. Mysticism provides a neat response to these questions. Its interesting to consider how religion pulls this off. 28). It is not a sociology of religion; i.e. Religion resists chaos. It only works if there is a community of plausibility. To violate the social construct ie. I recommend it ferociously. Great introduction to the field even given its age. Paperback Berger's writing is lucid and smooth—very readable. ... Consumer preference reflects the "needs" of this sphere. "What is relevant to many Americans since the 1980s? Money. They don't have enough of it. In the prosperity gospel the answer is provided.e.S. (Please see my review of that book for more detail." "I hope he was able to work through his issues. More impressively he is almost unparalleled in his creativity." —Jeffery K." —A. Berger is noted for his concise and lucid style. He was born in Vienna and came to the U.S. in his late teens. He was born in Vienna and came to the U.S. in his late teens. Paperback This book was absolutely fascinating. Paperback Notes and quotes. Anomie English word spelling is entirely of our own making. The death of a friend might bring this on. That uncomfortable condition is what sociologists call anomie. Religion can do that job. Seek annihilation of the self absorption in the divine. Rumi's mystical poetry is an example of this from Islam. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes. This is strange and rare but there are famous examples. So much is the usual story. This was all there from the start. Schleiermacher and Barth are important. Paperback.