

THE CITY OF THE SUN: THE SPECULAR REVERSE OF THE COUNTER-REFORMATION

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Abstract

Tommaso Campanella is the author of a utopia that reveals, more than any other one, the complex issues of both the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation, as well as the entire spirit of that time. In *The City of the Sun* (1602), he describes his ideal republic that would, in his view, be the political model that could save the Church from the setbacks of the Reformation and lead it to the top of the kingdom of this world. His idea of salvation of the Church, however, diverges from the predominantly Jesuitical and hegemonic vision produced by the Council of Trent. His theocratic polis is based on Bernardino Telesio's philosophy of nature - the same philosophy that had brought Giordano Bruno to the stake shortly before and would soon bring Galileo before the tribunal of the Inquisition.

Keywords: Campanella. Utopia. Counter-Reformation. Colonial system. Scientific revolution.