

2. History of Christianity

Rise of Christianity (Stark)

基督教的兴起 (斯塔克)

书名 《基督教的兴起——一个社会学家对历史的再思》

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内容提要 本书是香港中文大学崇基学院主编的《宗教社会学译丛》中的一本，本译丛主要是探讨有关宗教与社会的互动关系，由香港中文大学崇基学院吴梓明博士、张德胜博士、赖品超博士组成出版委员会，邀请国内外有关学者从近年赖“宗教社会学”外文著作中选取比较突出德书籍译成中文，以嘉惠更多从事这方面研究或对这一课题有兴趣的汉语读者。

本书共分为十章。第一章探讨早期基督教归信与基督教的增长；第二章分析早期基督教的阶层基础以及犹太教宣教事工；第四章分析当时社会的瘟疫、社会网络与归信情况；第五章分析女性与基督教的增长；第六章分析帝国城市的基督教化；第七章以安提阿为个案分析城市骚乱与危机；第八章分析殉道者的情况，认为殉道是出自理性选择的牺牲；第九章探讨基督教发展的机遇与组织情况；第十章讨论早期基督教关于美德的反思。

作者简介 罗德尼·斯塔克 当今宗教社会学领域最有影响的学者之一，他的研究主要涉及构建和检验宗教社会学方面的社会学理论。

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Author's Profile Rodney Stark is a renown American social scientist and scholar.

Abstract This is the mystery of two millennia, right? How does an obscure sect led by an executed convict go from less than 100 adherents to an estimated 6 million on the eve on Constantine's "conversion" in the early fourth century?

Social scientist Rodney Stark did more than puzzle: he created a set of testable hypotheses and tried, via secondary literature (he reads no ancient language and disclaims any expertise in the traditional scholarship of early church history), to probe the key issues. Along the way, he uses contemporary social science findings from demography, the sociology of small groups, the psychology of conversion, medical statistics, and every other conceptual lever he could divine to create a compelling mosaic of findings, arrayed in discrete topical chapters (each of which had a former life as a scholarly article).

Throughout, the emphasis returns again and again to social networks - friends converting friends, wives converting husbands, former Jewish co-religionists converting other Jews as Christian churches establish themselves in the "Jewish Quarters" of Roman towns and cities, mercy-bound Christians staying to care for plague victims while pagans flee the pandemic.