

THE MYTH OF RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY: AN ESSAY ON THE HIDDEN ROLE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN THEORIES, REVISED EDITION. By Roy A. Clouser. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2005. Pp. xii + 397. \$25.00, ISBN 978-0-268-02366-9. Clouser's book is an accessible introduction to and defense of the idea, pioneered by H. Dooyeweerd, that scientific theories depend for their possibility on religious commitments or, as Clouser calls them, "divinity beliefs." In order to be able to form a coherent theory, the argument goes, the theorist must assume something to be selfsubsistent or to be "ultimate reality," and thus to take a "religious" viewpoint whether consciously or not. Therefore, scientific theories cannot be thought to be religiously neutral. Many theories treat some part of the natural world as if it were ultimate reality, resulting in problematic reductionisms of various sorts, which is not only bad science but is also based on bad "religious" choices. After giving a general characterization of religion, theory, and their interrelation, Clouser argues these points by showing the effects of this religious non-neutrality in mathematics, physics, and psychology. Clouser's book is not aimed at specialists in the philosophy of science—although it should be of interest to these—but at a more general audience, which can lead to frustration for more advanced readers who would want 51 Religious Studies Review • VOLUME 33 • NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2007 to see more rigorous argumentation or interaction with secondary literature, but overall, the book is a great success. Despite the fact that it changes the arguments from a "continental" to an "Anglo-American" philosophical idiom, it stands as an excellent introduction to Dooyeweerd's views in English. This revision expands considerably on the first edition, including welcome clarifications regarding the nature of religion and theories as well as replies to objections. Michael J. DeMoor Institute for Christian Studies