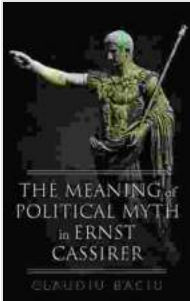


The Profound Meaning of Political Myth in Ernst Cassirer's Thought



The Meaning of Political Myth in Ernst Cassirer

by Claudiu Baciu

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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In his seminal work, *The Myth of the State*, Ernst Cassirer explores the profound significance of political myth. Cassirer argues that political myths are not merely fanciful tales or irrational beliefs, but rather essential components of human culture and political life. They provide a framework for understanding the world, legitimizing power and authority, and shaping our collective identity.

Cassirer identifies three main types of political myths: foundation myths, functional myths, and eschatological myths. Foundation myths explain the origins of a political Free Download or a particular political institution. They often involve stories of divine intervention or the actions of a heroic figure. Functional myths legitimize the existing political Free Download and its

institutions. They explain why certain individuals or groups have the right to rule and why others must obey. Eschatological myths provide a vision of the future and offer hope for a better world. They often involve stories of a messianic figure or a utopian society.

Cassirer argues that political myths are not static, but rather evolve over time. As societies change, so too do their political myths. However, certain core elements of political myth remain constant. These include the belief in a higher power or a divine Free Download, the importance of symbols and rituals, and the need for a sense of collective identity.

Cassirer's work on political myth has had a profound influence on political philosophy and theory. His insights have helped us to understand the role of myth in shaping our political beliefs and behaviors. They have also challenged us to think more critically about the nature of political power and authority.

The Myth of the State

In *The Myth of the State*, Cassirer examines the myth of the state in detail. He argues that the state is not a natural or necessary entity, but rather a product of human imagination and creativity. The state is created through the collective will of the people, and it is legitimized by a shared belief in its authority.

Cassirer identifies two main elements of the myth of the state: the idea of sovereignty and the idea of the general will. Sovereignty is the idea that the state has supreme authority over all other institutions and individuals within its territory. The general will is the idea that the state represents the collective will of the people. Cassirer argues that these two ideas are

essential to the myth of the state, and they provide the foundation for its legitimacy.

Cassirer also examines the role of symbols and rituals in the myth of the state. He argues that symbols and rituals play an essential role in creating a sense of collective identity and in legitimizing the state's authority. For example, the flag of a nation is a powerful symbol of its unity and sovereignty. The rituals of government, such as elections and inaugurations, serve to reinforce the idea that the state is a legitimate and authoritative institution.

The Significance of Political Myth

Cassirer's work on political myth has had a profound influence on our understanding of the role of myth in political life. He has shown us that political myths are not merely fanciful tales or irrational beliefs, but rather essential components of human culture and political life. They provide a framework for understanding the world, legitimizing power and authority, and shaping our collective identity.

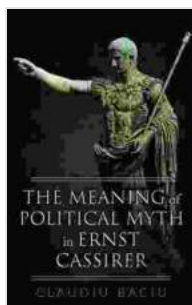
Cassirer's work has also challenged us to think more critically about the nature of political power and authority. He has shown us that the state is not a natural or necessary entity, but rather a product of human imagination and creativity. The state is created through the collective will of the people, and it is legitimized by a shared belief in its authority.

Cassirer's work is a timely reminder of the importance of political myth. In a world that is increasingly complex and interconnected, we need to be aware of the role that myth plays in shaping our political beliefs and behaviors. We need to be able to think critically about the myths that we

are told, and we need to be able to distinguish between those myths that are true and those that are false.

Ernst Cassirer's work on political myth is a major contribution to political philosophy and theory. His insights have helped us to understand the role of myth in shaping our political beliefs and behaviors. They have also challenged us to think more critically about the nature of political power and authority.

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