

This Issue

The institutionalised religions have failed to recognise or restrain the anti-religious expansion and centralisation of our political and economic activities. They have failed to put a spiritual content in the social body; they have ignored human happiness, community relationship and existential fulfilment, all of which have been largely destroyed by industrialism and economic materialism. Perhaps, in consequence, no one needs more of religion than the religious bodies themselves.

The helplessness and powerlessness of religious institutions has left the political and economic institutions to operate in a moral wilderness and as a result we face a possible breakdown of our social relationships, the destruction of this beautiful planet and an end to natural wealth and resources.

But the failure of religious institutions is by no means the failure of the religious spirit or the death of religious experience. The wild technology, the

savage science, the rapacious industries, the monstrous political institutions, the impersonal bureaucracies are the root causes of much of present-day human problems and we have to find human solutions. This is the relevance of religious and spiritual values we are exploring in this special issue.

The Ecologist and Resurgence have come together in this joint issue to grapple with those traditions and rituals where faith is not divided from everyday living. Religions which have not become materialist (and are not trapped in the Establishment and large institutions) such as the indigenous religions of African peoples, Zen Buddhism, radical Christianity, mystical Sufism and meditative Hinduism, may give us some clue to a new value system. These help us to create stability, continuity and harmony in our human communities and provide a spiritual context for ecological living. Ω S.K.

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AS WE APPROACH THE POST INDUSTRIAL AGE

A totally new set of solutions is required to the problems that confront man today: — poverty — unemployment — disease — malnutrition — crime — war — pollution etc. The need is for ecological solutions rather than technological ones, solutions that do not require the massive expenditure of ever scarcer resources, that solve problems rather than mask them by eradicating their symptoms, that lead to stability rather than instability and collapse. *The Ecologist* — Journal of the Post Industrial Age, whose editors wrote the now famous *Blueprint for Survival* (Vol 2. 1. Jan. 1972) has for more than three years published articles that contribute to this end.

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Resurgence publishes articles on alternative life style, human technology, ecological—organic living, and small, simple, decentralised power structures. Regular columns by E.F. Schumacher and Geoffrey Ashe. Frequent contributions by Vinoba Bhave, Peter Harper, Leopold Kohr, John Papworth.

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