

ABSTRACT

RADICAL THERE, CONSERVATIVE HERE:  
RELIGIOUS PLURALISM, SECULARIZATION AND QUESTIONS OF  
POWER IN THE THOUGHT OF RABBI JONATHAN SACKS

Shraga Bick

In this article I will examine the thought of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, one of the most important and prolific thinkers in Modern Jewish Orthodoxy today, about inter-religious pluralism. I suggest that the religious-pluralistic thought of Sacks is strongly influenced by and connected to secularization processes in the modern era as described in the sociological theory of Peter Berger. I show how his thought is the product of a 'secularized consciousness', but at the same time also expresses a *resistance* to secularization in order to fortify the status and role of religion in the modern era.

In the second part of the article I content that the religious-pluralism theory of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks cannot be fully understood without a close examination of interests and power relations, which influence, and perhaps even shape and determine his religious ideology. In other words, this part shows how the political and the theological are intertwined, leading to opinions and conclusions that appear to be different from what might have initially been expected.