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### **Entry**

This Dissertation attempts to examine one specific aspect of the methodology [16/17] of the German theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg. This aspect that is examined is the implicit authority that Wolfhart Pannenberg ascribes to the methodology of the natural sciences, and this outlook is defined as scientism. The specific text, wherein this is most clearly revealed, is Wolfhart Pannenberg's extended treatise of metacritical and metatheological theory, *Wissenschaftstheorie und Theologie*, 1973. Chapter One deals with a formal definition of scientism, and the extent to which it divides the philosophical schools of critical theory and critical rationalism. Special attention is paid to the implications of relativity theory, and also the continuing western inheritance of the concepts of science and technology. Chapter Two assesses the development and critical response to the theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg. The critiques of Wolfhart Pannenberg are analysed, and it is suggested that the foundation of this criticism suggests, conversely, the theme of scientism implicit within the methodology of Pannenberg. Chapter Three follows through this theme. An analysis of the philosophy-of-history of Wolfhart Pannenberg is made, with special reference to his revelation-history construction, and his treatment of the resurrection of Jesus. It is suggested that the methodology therein is scientific. Chapter Four follows the argument for theological science within the university, as Wolfhart Pannenberg presents it in *Wissenschaftstheorie und Theologie*. However, it is suggested that Pannenberg is reliant on a strong notion of technique, and that his outlook might be appropriately designated scientific as a result of this. Chapter Five assesses the arguments for scientism in the philosophy-of-history of Pannenberg and the relationship of the theology of Wolfhart Pannenberg to critical rationalism. The relationship of scientism to the open society argument is examined, and it is suggested from this that the philosophy-of-history of Wolfhart Pannenberg form the theological foundation of political liberalism.

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