Abstract

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of formal religion in the early years of Outward Bound, a significant outdoor education organisation in Britain, from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Design/methodology/approach

This article is based on archival and other documentary research in various archives and libraries, mostly in the United Kingdom.

Findings

The article shows that religious "instruction" was a central feature of the outdoor education that Outward Bound provided. The nature and extent of this aspect of the training was a matter of considerable debate within the Outward Bound Trust and was influenced by older traditions of muscular Christianity as well as the specific context of the early post–Second World War period. However, the religious influences at the schools were marginalised by the 1960s; although formal Christian observances did not disappear, the emphasis shifted to the promotion of a vaguer spirituality associated with the idea that "the mountains speak for themselves".

Originality/value

The article establishes the importance of organised Christianity and formal religious observances in the early years of Outward Bound, a feature which has generally been overlooked in the historical literature. It contributes to wider analyses of outdoor education, religious education and secularisation in the mid-twentieth century.

Keywords

Outward Bound  Kurt Hahn  Christianity  Outdoor education  Character

Citation


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In The Reasonableness of Christianity (1695), he turned to Christian revelation in search of the foundations of morality. His moralist soteriology denied the possibility of salvation to those who, like antinomians and deists, rejected Christ’s moral and salvific message. To Locke, antinomians denied any importance to good works, while deists relied on natural reason alone, thus neglecting the limits of unassisted reason and the weakness of human nature. preacher to atheist activist, and along the way explains precisely why it is not only okay to be a Rejection Proof: How I Beat Fear and Became Invincible Through 100 Days of Rejection. 162 Pages 2016 1.12 MB 5,888 Downloads! Rejection Proof: How I Beat Fear and Became Invincible Through 100 Days of Rejection Jia J ... crimes atheists are committing and then provides four powerful reasons for why Christianity is tru The Book of Secrets: Who am I? Where Did I Come From? Why am I Here? 246 Pages 2004 973 KB 24,133 Downloads! ? and Why Am I Here? Each of the fifteen chapters discusses a ‘secret’ - such as: The World Is In You The Faith: What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It, and Why It Matters. 257 Pages 2008 2.94 MB 9,203 Downloads! The article establishes the importance of organised Christianity and formal religious observances in the early years of Outward Bound, a feature which has generally been overlooked in the historical literature. It contributes to wider analyses of outdoor education, religious education and secularisation in the mid-twentieth century. Keywords: Outward Bound. If you think you should have access to this content, click the button to contact our support team. Contact us. Opens in new window. Opens in new window. Opens in new window. © 2020 Emerald Publishing Limited.