Preface to the Routledge Classics Edition


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The Dogma of Christ is a historical discussion with sporadic psychoanalytic comments. Looks like his views changed a lot after writing these essays as he is contradicting a lot with his other books like Fear of freedom & The Sane society. Chapter on Sex & Character is the worst psychoanalytic reduction I have ever come across. I still like this guy for his imagination & fresh ideas. The Dogma of Christ and Other Essays provides some of the sharpest critical insights into how the contemporary world of human destructiveness and violence can no longer separate religion, psychology and politics. The book brilliantly summarizes Fromm's ideas on how culture and society shape our behavior. Read More.

Foreword.

While most of the essays in this volume have been written during the last ten years, the longest paper, The Dogma of Christ, first appeared in German in 1930. Professor James Luther Adams of the Harvard Divinity School made a translation many years ago and suggested that I publish it together with other papers in one volume. He did so in spite of the fact that he was not in agreement with many of my conclusions. The principle essay The Dogma of Christ discusses the early Christian community, which Fromm acknowledged would require updating even at the time of this books first print run, discusses how religious outlook related to social context, particularly that of the subordinate and oppressed classes to which it appealed and then how it became a religion of the rulers over time. Alongside Eric Berne's Beyond Games and Scripts and Games People Play: The Psychology of Human Relationships this essay impressed me as one of the greatest considerations of how transference, projection, identification and other concepts from psychology and psycho-analysis operate.