

**A Civil Theology for the Modern Condition:  
Tang Junyi's Reconstruction of Confucianism**

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Tang Junyi's comprehensive reinterpretation of Confucianism ranks among the most ambitious philosophical projects in modern Chinese history, and fundamentally challenges our understanding of Confucianism. The present paper argues that his groundbreaking reinterpretation provides nothing less than the renewal of Confucianism in the form of a civil theology. The latter serves as the foundation for Tang's reflection on the modern condition. It offers an original approach to understanding the individual's vulnerability in the context of rapidly modernizing societies. The many compelling insights from Tang Junyi's ambitious project remain highly instructive today, not least because it aimed – with varying degrees of success – to confront head-on the enticements of Confucian dogmatism and political authoritarianism. Equally significant, Tang does not simply discuss the impact of “Western” modernity and colonialism. He rather presents the experience of exile as being fundamental to the attempt to come to terms modernity in general and thereby introduces a much more challenging mode of reflection.