

WHAT IN THE WORLD PART 2 - A SECULAR CULTURE

1) What does it mean to live in a “secular” age? Unbelief? Atheism?

2) Why does “spirituality” endure? **Secular:**

- 1) sacred vs. secular
- 2) neutral, unbiased, a-religious (secularization theory)
- 3) ?
 - expressions of longing for something ultimate
 - “haunted”

Third Definition:

- 1) not characterized by unbelief or atheism, but a contestability of beliefs
- 2) the secular age is an “accomplishment”

**transcendence: what is beyond the natural*

**subtraction story: secular is merely the subtraction of religious beliefs, secular is what is left over*

- 3) the immanent frame is the only viable option for exclusive humanism to live in

**immanent frame: lives exist entirely within the natural rather than the supernatural*

**exclusive humanism: worldview that is able to account for meaning and significance without any appeal to transcendence*

- 4) this immanent frame is cross-pressured - pulled and pressured by transcendence / fullness

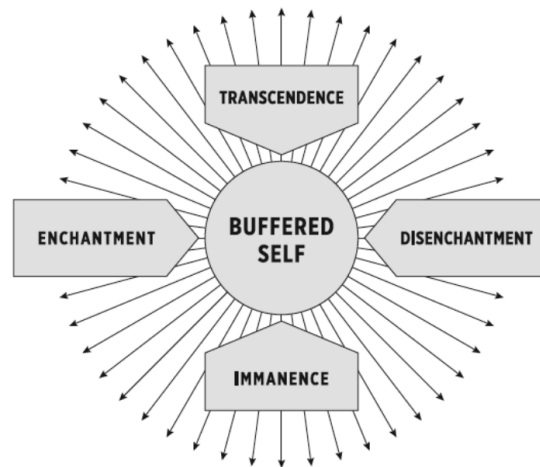


Figure 1. Nova effect from cross-pressures in a secular age.

**cross-pressures: pressures of various spiritual options - the feeling of being caught in-between transcendence and*

**immanentization: meaning, significance, and “fullness” are found within self-sufficient, naturalistic universe*

- 5) secular does not end in belief, but instead these cross-pressures generate a nova effect of many ways of believing

**nova effect: the explosion of different options or “third ways” for belief and meaning in a secular age*