

# Storia, politica ed ermeneutica del religioso tra Ottocento e Novecento

Barth, Cassirer e altri croce-via

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**Abstract:** Starting from a historical-philosophical reconstruction of the dominant religious currents between 19th and 20th century, the article aims to compare the thinking of the Protestant theologian, Karl Barth, and that of the contemporary philosopher of symbolic forms Ernst Cassirer.

As distant as they may be, the conceptualizations of the two authors would seem to come to an agreement to the extent that they glimpse an original symbolic attitude, or an ability to create cultural forms typical of man. Both criticize this Prometheanism of man which leads to the creation of myths such as politics and a certain type of religion and invite contemporary man to turn to ethics. The thought of the two authors intersects with an anthropological twist that underlines the value of language, of inter-human questioning as the engine of ethical action that, for both, does not find definitive, but only provisional, historical answers.

**Keywords:** Karl Barth, Ernst Cassirer, Liberal theology, Prometheanism, ethics, form(s), neo-Kantianism.