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CULTURE AS THREAT AND RESCUE

AN ANALYSIS OF CULTURE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PHENOMENON OF IMITATION (*MIMESIS*) AND EDUCATION (*PAIDEIA*)

S u m m a r y

The article discuss the problem of culture in light of two key terms of Platonic understanding of human being and society – *paideia* and *mimesis*. The culture is a kind of *paideia* defended in Plato's *State* against the mythological order of *mimesis*. The genuine elucidation of difficult role of *mimesis* in the Platonic understanding of intellectual culture opens the Girardian interpretation of culture. The Girard's theory reveals the role of *mimesis* as the highest factor of destruction inside the ethnological and modern society. The *mimesis* as the mimetic desire allows new interpretation of the exciting question: Why Plato dismissed poets from his State? Plato did it because such poets as Homer and Hesiod introduced the vision of god, man and society based on the mythological power of *mimesis*. The new order of Platonic intellectual culture is based on the power of human *logos*.

Summarised and translated by Rev. Piotr Pasterczyk

Słowa klucze: kultura, mit, edukacja, państwo, rozum.

Key words: culture, mythos, education, State, reason.