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OT602.OA: History of Christianity, Fall 2020

5-3-1 Assignment

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Church History, An Essential Guide
Chapter 9 – The Twentieth Century and the End of Modernity
Justo L. Gonzalez

Reflection questions:

1. What was the concept of the “white man’s burden”?
2. In what ways did technological modernization prove itself unsuccessful?
3. What theologic influence inspired challenges against political constructs such as Nazism and Marxism?
4. What three conferences does Gonzales identify as having emerged from Edinburgh, Scotland (1910) in attempts to unify the church?
5. What percentage of Christians lived in Europe in 1900?

Answers

1. The idea that the Western world would bring science, technology, and progress to the world especially the less progressive parts of the world.
2. Modern technological incited wars which in there were more casualties and was as more devastating natrual distasters such as forest fires and air polution.
3. Karl Barth’s “neo-theology”
4. International Missionary Council, Faith and Order, and World Council of Churches.
5. 49.9%

Terms:

1. Ecumenism – principles and practices of the church
2. Periti – a term used to describe theologians who provided expertise in councils (i.e. Vatican council)
3. Decolonization – nations gaining independence from colony status

Summary:

This era was marked with attempts of colonial modernization. Technological advancement led to devastating wars and natural disasters. Despite these challenges and even with great theological diversity, the growth church proved it’s strength over modernization. Europe began to see a great decline in the Christian population, as well as the trajectory of whites who reprinted about 81% of Christians in 1900, is expected to decrease by half by 2000. (p. 111)

Reference

González Justo L. *Church History: An Essential Guide*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

