

ABSTRACT. Ochmann Jerzy, *Cywilizacja jako alternatywa religii. M.M. Kaplan (1881–1982)* [Civilization as an alternative to religion – M.M. Kaplan (1881-1982)]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 181-204. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

This paper attempts to show the theses of M.M. Kaplan, a Jewish sociologist born in Lithuania. He believed that Jewish society should focus on the development of civilization, which was justified by the national prestige. He described the Jewish contribution to the various parts of civilization, claiming that this kind of prestige is more valuable than the contribution to religion or culture. He also focused on certain individual making a list of Jewish thinkers who made this kind of contribution throughout the history of mankind. Kaplan stresses out the role of sacrum in Jewish intellectual thought. He thinks that the “rebuilding” a new version of Jewish faith as civilization is a kind of reconstruction of “normality”. Therefore he gained some popularity in the United States and Israel. His views were a part of his sociological thought and should be understood in a wider context.

Jerzy Ochman, Wyższa Szkoła Społeczno-Gospodarcza, Tyczyn