

ABSTRACT. Potz Maciej, *Shakerzy – studium instytucjonalnego samobójstwa* [Shakers – a study of an institutional suicide]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 205-214. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

Under the term “institutional suicide” the author of this paper understands a certain scenario of a dawn of a religious group. The case of the Shaker movements can be one of this kind of events. The crisis began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the number of its members fell down dramatically. It was that very moment when shakerism stepped into the American popular culture. To this phenomenon led diverse factors, like the wide interest in the rituals of the group, inner tension within the group related to the clash of the traditional and contemporary variants, or the financial factors. This article makes an attempt at reconstruction of these factors and tries to give an answer to the following question – what makes the fall of the Shaker movement as a group and as a religious congregation?

Maciej Potz, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź