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Sommario/riassunto

WAN Zhaoyuan analyses how Chinese intellectuals conceived of the relationship between 'science' and 'religion' through in-depth examination of the writings of Kang Youwei, a prominent political reformer and radical Confucian thinker, often referred to by his disciples as the 'Martin Luther of Confucianism'. Confronted with the rise of scientism and challenged by the Conflict Thesis during his life among adversarial Chinese New Culture intellectuals, Kang maintains a holistic yet evolving conception of a compatible and complementary relationship between scientific knowledge and 'true religion' exemplified by his Confucian religion ( kongjiao ). This close analysis of Kang's ideas contributes to a richer understanding of the history of science and religion in China and in a more global context.

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