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Dissertation Defense

How to mend a broken world:
a comparative study of
Atatürk's Büyük Nutuk
and
Augustine's City of God

Taking one's own advice

- I presented the five-point covenant model as a blueprint for persuasion.
 - Historical prologue / Transcendence
 - Hierarchy / Community
 - Ethics
 - Oath / consecration / appeal to verities
 - Succession
- So, the logical action is – apply it to this defense.

Historical prologue

- Two documents, one genre: world repair manuals
- End of a world
 - Roman Empire
 - Ottoman Empire
- Definition of new world
 - Decentralized Christian Europe
 - Centralized nationalistic republic
- Catalytic writer, to tell the story and help it come to pass.

Hierarchy / Community

- Why this paper addresses this community.
- Scholarship is the tool that organizes public life (*Lineberger*).
 - Augustine was a master of his age's most credible learning.
 - Atatürk was a professional soldier, the most highly-educated and respected class in his society.
 - The Protestant Reformers were scholars. (*kathedars*).
 - So, too, were the catalysts of the Renaissance

Hierarchy / Community

- Linking verbalizer.
- Breadth vs. Depth.
- Synergy.
- Other communities:
 - Clerics
 - Magistrates
 - Parents
 - Writers

Hierarchy / Community

Some of the disciplines this paper addresses:

- Anthropology
- History
- Information theory
- Intercultural studies
- Linguistics
- Psychology
- Rhetoric
- Sociology
- Technical writing
- Theology

Ethics

- One result, five focal points:
 - Transcendence / historical prologue
 - Hierarchy / community structure
 - Ethics / shibboleth
 - Oath / consecration / appeal to validation
 - Succession
- Effective world-redefiners deal with all these points.
- Would-be reformers who are failures and agents of disaster – don't.

Ethics

- City of God, Six Day Speech, Plato's Republic
- Obviously, two different genres here!

Nutuk emphases



City emphases



Republic emphases



■ Transcendence
■ Oath

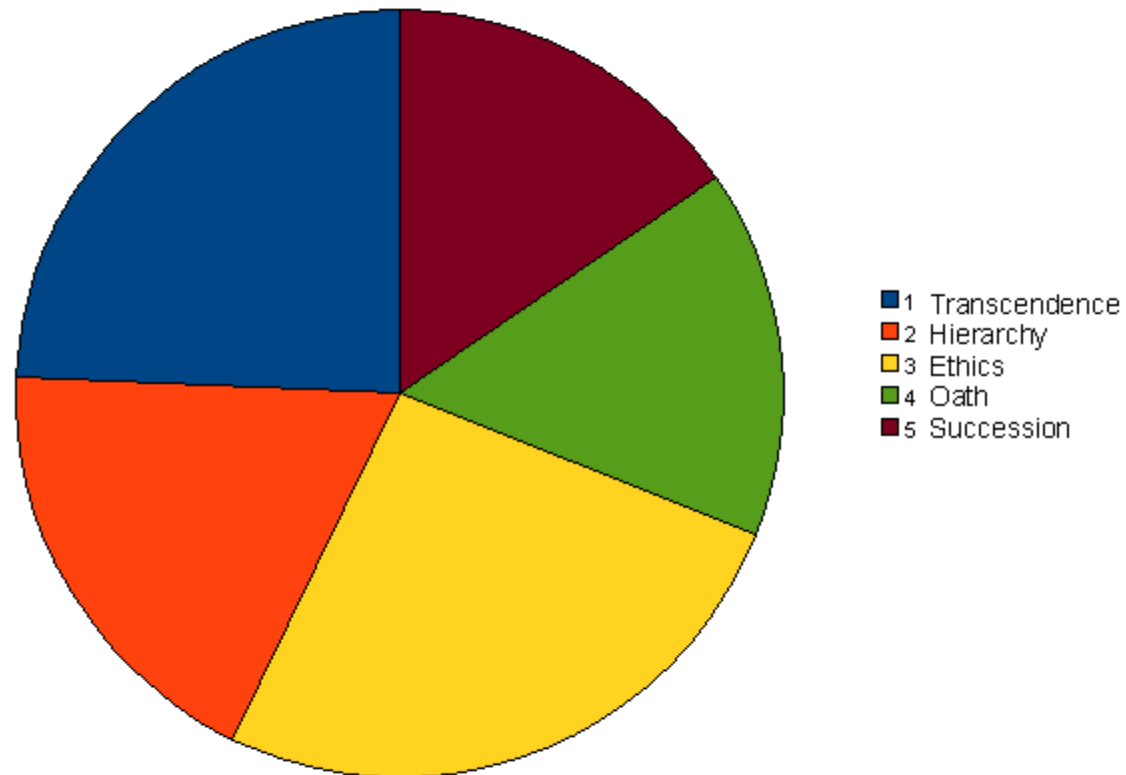
■ Hierarchy
■ Succession

■ Ethics

Ethics

- City of God – the genre definer.

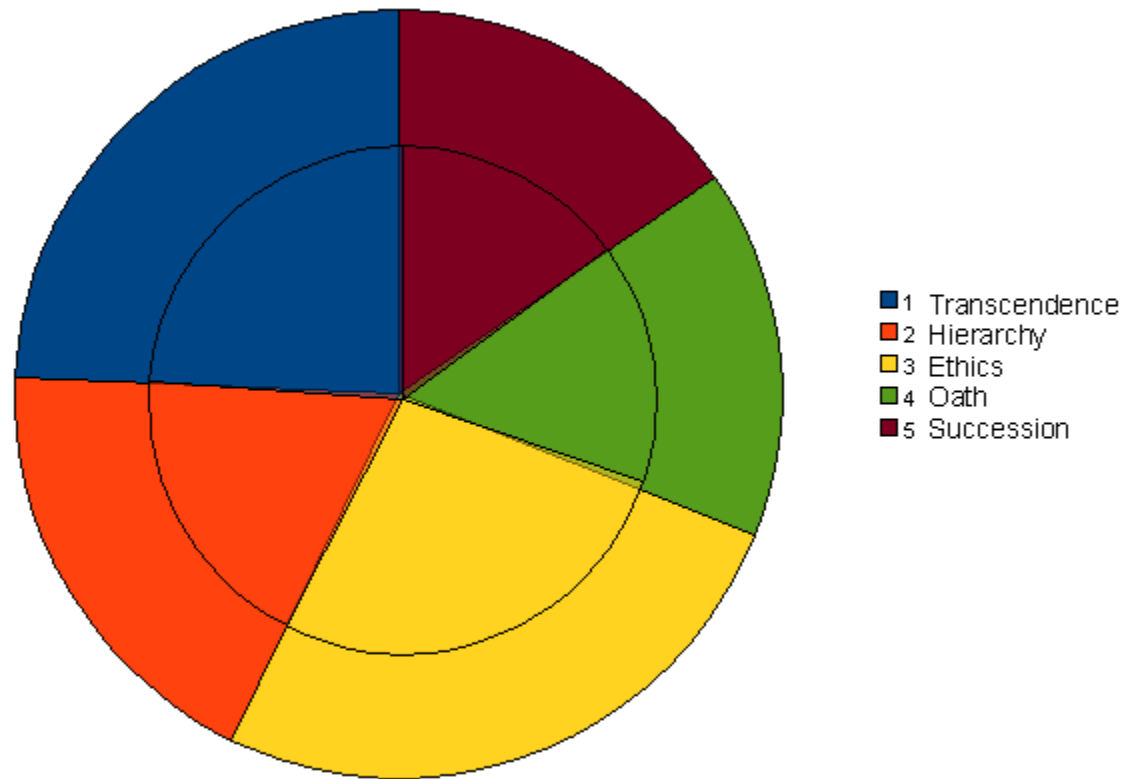
City of God



Ethics

- City of God and Six Day Speech. Same genre.

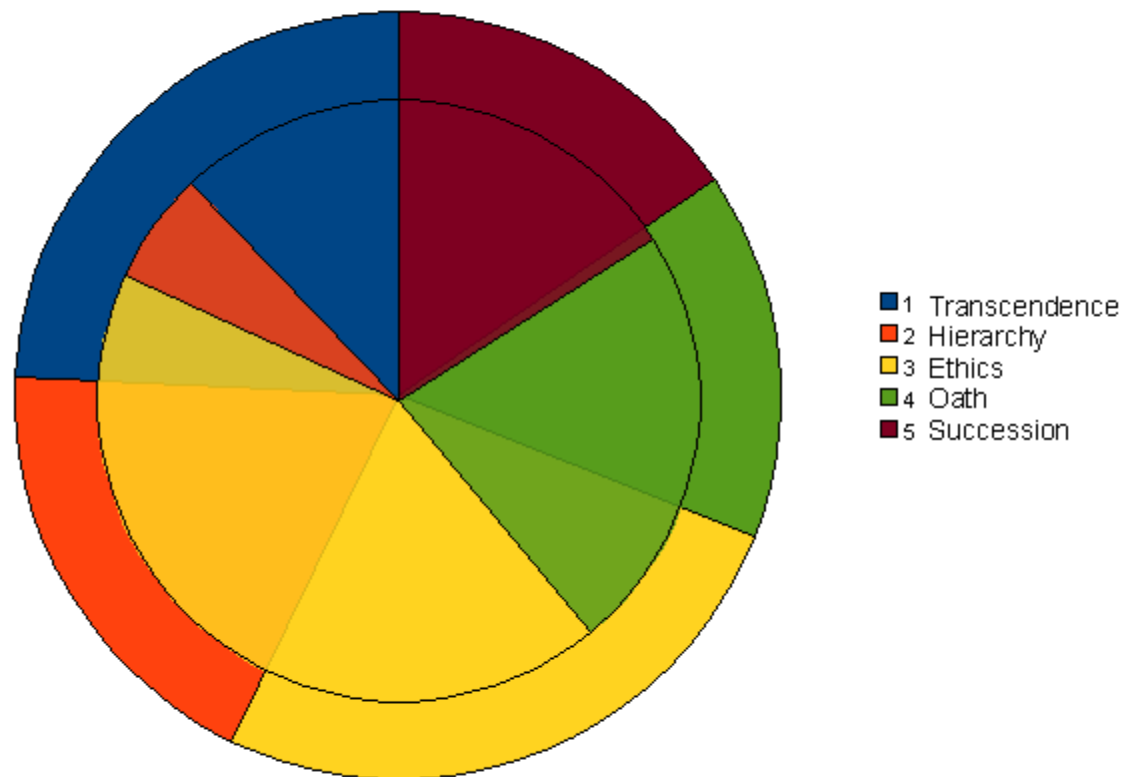
City of God and Six Day Speech



Ethics

- City of God and Republic. Different genres.

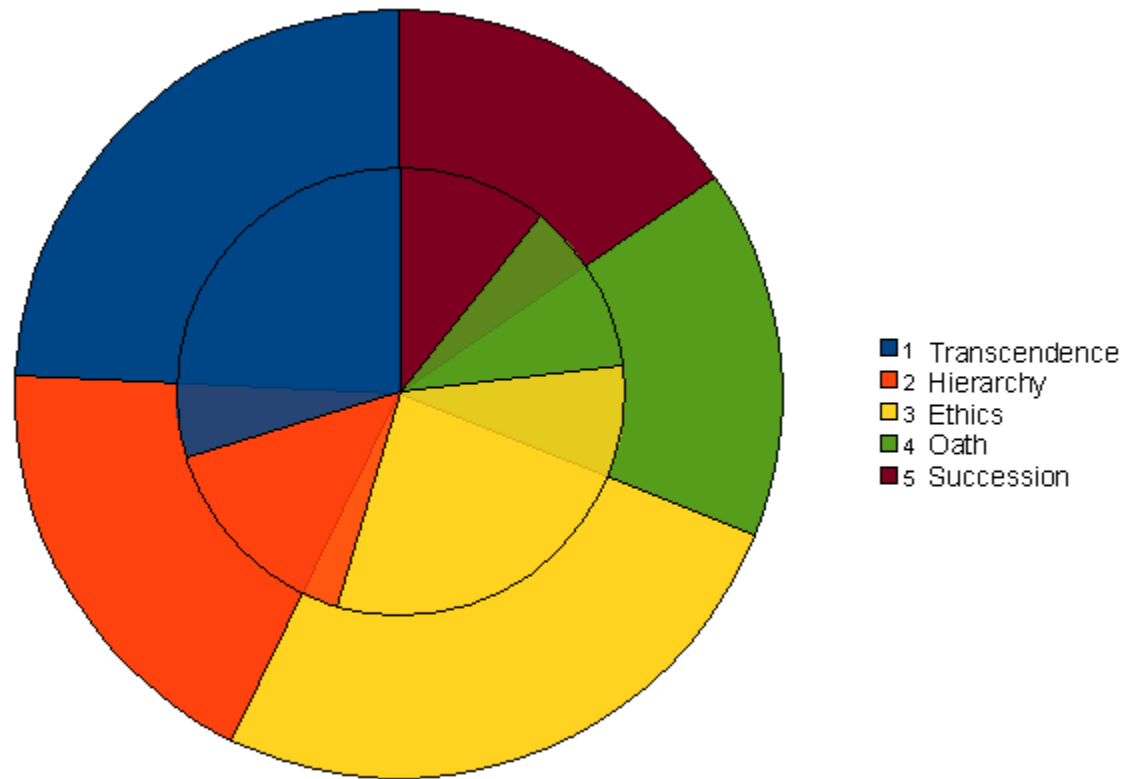
City of God and Plato's Republic



Ethics

- City of God and Utopia. Different genres.

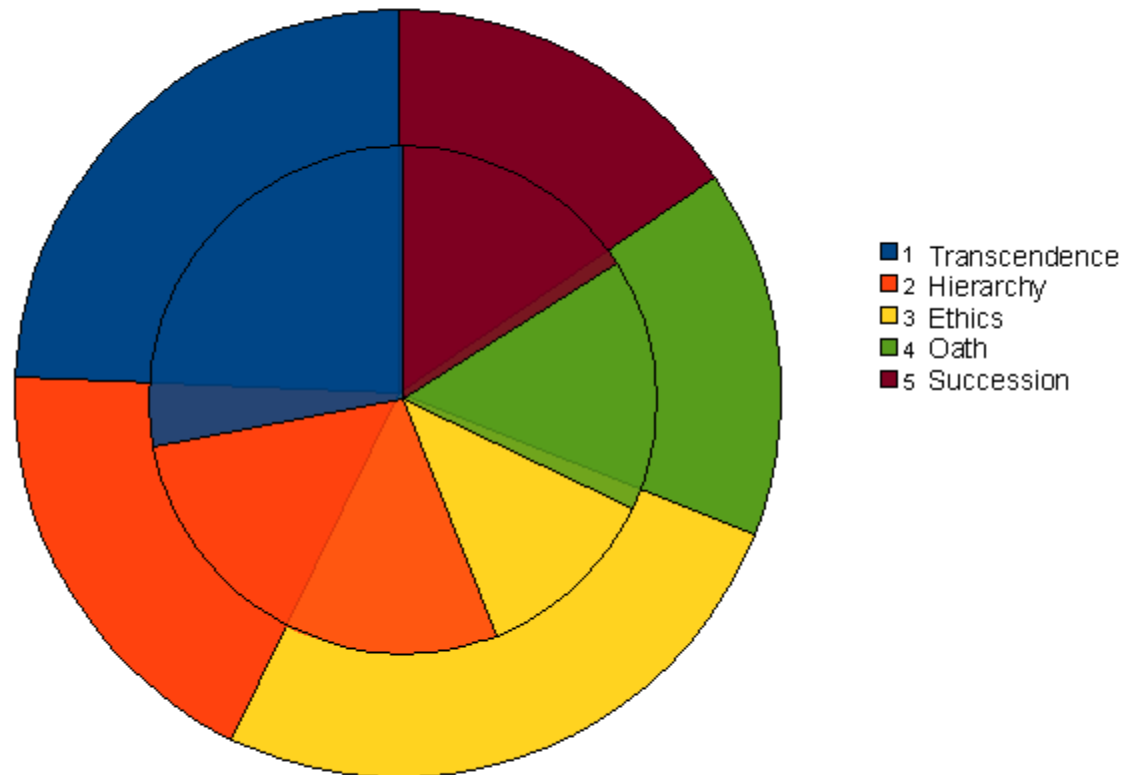
City of God and Utopia



Ethics

- City of God and New Atlantis. Different genres.

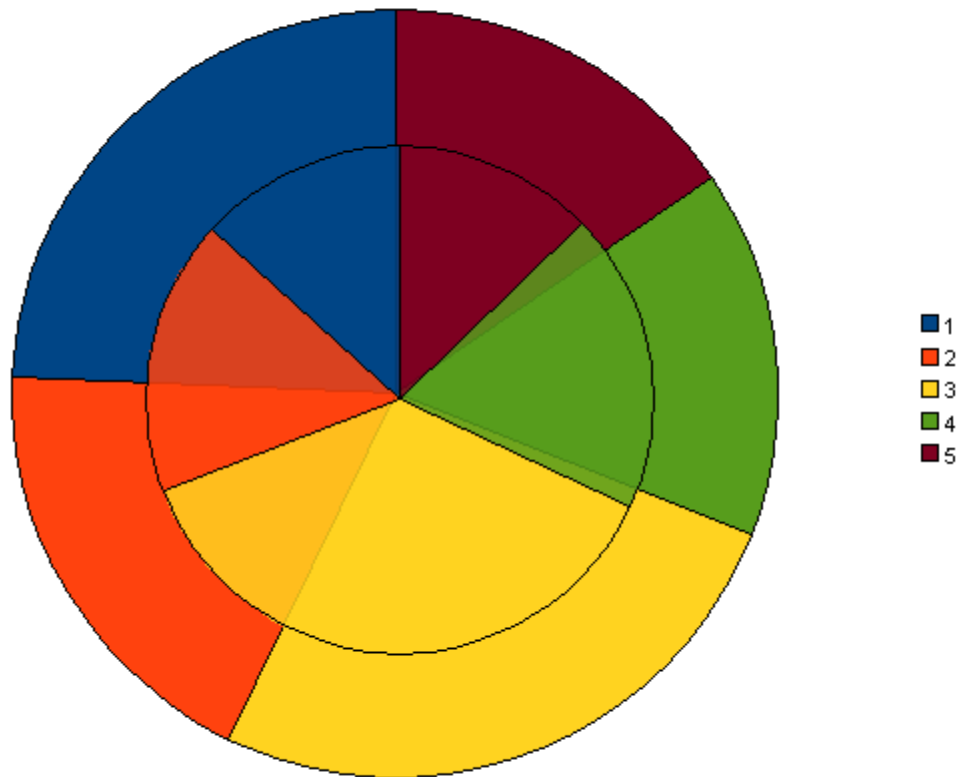
City of God and New Atlantis



Ethics

- City of God and Looking Backward. Different genres.

City of God Looking Backward



Oath / Validation

- Two processes, one goal: to pledge fealty to the scholarly community.
- To demonstrate good faith with two sacrificial offerings.
- To invoke the validation processes of qualitative research.
- To invoke the validation processes of quantitative research.

Research Questions

- Why I chose to start with quantitative approach.
- Why I added a qualitative approach.
- What I learned through the literature search.
- What I learned through the qualitative analysis.
- What I learned through the quantitative analysis.
- What I concluded.

Research Questions

- Why I chose to start with quantitative approach.
 - Seeking objective confirmation
 - Additional credibility with my “day job.”

Research Questions

- Why I added a qualitative approach.
 - The numbers did not have sufficient weight and credibility to make my case on their own.
 - The process was not sufficiently rigorous.
 - The limits of positivism.

Research Questions

- What I learned through the literature search.
 - Nationalism did, indeed, aspire to fill the “God-shaped vacuum” in the human soul.
 - Little research has been done on the Six Day Speech, which is arguably the 20th century's most influential nationalistic work.
 - This document did not happen in a vacuum.

Research Questions

- What I learned through the qualitative analysis.
 - Both documents answered all five questions.
 - Both documents provided similar answers.

Research Questions

- What I learned through the quantitative analysis.
 - One can use a proven document as a *standard* of measurement, rather than as a *subject* of analysis.
 - One can achieve more interesting results by bringing a contrasting body of text into the conversation.
 - Quantitative analysis also can clarify contrasts between studied documents.

Research Answers

- What I concluded.
 - *City of God* and the *Six Day Speech* belong to the same genre, world-rebuilding manuals.
 - These two documents are objectively, quantifiably, and qualifiably different from speculative utopian documents.
 - Leaders who can credibly answer all five questions can catalyze the birth of stable new social orders.

Succession Planning

- Do you know, where you're going to, do you like the things that life is showing you ... ?
 - Academia
 - Intercultural projects
 - Industry
 - Private ventures

Succession Planning

- Academia
 - Teach online courses
 - Design online courses
 - Pursue a “mechanized mentor” long-term research project
 - Accept an on-campus teaching / mentoring position

Succession Planning

- Intercultural ventures
 - Submit articles to Muslim periodicals
 - Market a polished version of this dissertation here and abroad
 - Present papers based on this (and further) research to target audiences
 - Continue mentoring Turkish grad students

Succession Planning

- Industry
 - Write more sophisticated and demanding documents, such as corporate white papers.
 - Break into instructional design.

Succession Planning

- Private ventures
 - Place articles in professional and popular magazines.
 - Write and sell books.
 - Launch publishing venture, to compile and market anthologies of short stories created by and for home school families.

Vanishing Point Alternatives

One process, two “ultimates”

- God / Scientific secularism
- Reformation / Renaissance
- Liberty / Imperialism
- American revolution / French revolution
- Conversion / Regeneration through chaos