

ABSTRACT

This master's thesis, entitled "The origins of the theory of pure nature", seeks to understand how, in the 16th century, commentators on St Thomas Aquinas came to conceive of human nature as having a purely natural end rather than a supernatural one. This is known as the theory of pure nature. The aim of our work is to study, on the basis of the work of Father de Lubac, the ways in which they were led to develop such a theory. Our first part is devoted to Cajetan and his application to human nature of the principle of Aristotelian origin. Our second part concerns the heresy of Baius and the use of the *potentia Dei absoluta*. Our third part is devoted to the limbo theory and the question of natural beatitude.