

Abstract

The present master's thesis deals with the characteristics and development of spiritism in Brazil. It presents the main ideas and a brief overview of the precursors of the spiritist movement. It describes in detail the life and work of Allan Kardec, a representative of modern spiritism, whose work has influenced contemporary Brazilian spiritism. It also deals with historical development and the first researchers in different Brazilian regions. The thesis also overviews the most important representatives, various ways of spreading of this movement, the organization of spiritist centers, constant changes and attempts to unify Brazilian spiritism. It describes the current form of Brazilian spiritism, presents the main mediums and their activities and deals with the charitable activities provided by spiritist centers in Brazil on a large scale.