

## THE SERBIAN POLITOLOGY OF RELIGION LIBRARY

In the past five years, two major steps were made regarding the publications within Politology of Religion- the journal and the library. The journal "Politics and Religion" has been published semi-annually since 2007. Four years later, The Serbian Politology of Religion Library came to existence. The Serbian Politology of Religion Library was founded by Dr Miroljub Jevtic, an IPSA member and a professor of Politology of Religion at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, Serbia. The library's publication was supported by the Center for Study of Religion and Religious Tolerance in Belgrade. While Dr. Miroljub Jevtic stands for the editor in chief, the editorial board members are Dr. Dragan Novakovic, Dr. Zivojin Djuric, Dr. Zoran Jevtovic and Dr. Tomislav Brankovic. It is necessary to point out that Serbian Politology of Religion Library is the first library in the world focused on the youngest discipline within the political sciences. The objective of the library is publication of scientific monographs and postgraduate theses based on this emerging scientific field. So far, the project has been unique. At the moment, all publications are available in Serbian language. The library content can be retrieved from the Virtual Library of Serbia (<http://www.vbs.rs/>).

The publications, listed in alphabetical order, are:

"Albanian Question and Religion" by Miroljub Jevtic

"Political Orientations in the Works of Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic" by Ksenija Martinovic

"Political Relations and Religion" by Miroljub Jevtic

"Serbian Orthodox Church and Bearers of Political Power in Serbia from 1990 to 2006" by Dragana Andjelkovic Petrusic

"The Influence of Islam on the Status of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina" by Jasmina Indjic

**"The Albanian Question and Religion"** by Miroljub Jevtic is approaching the religious system and its relation to politics from both internal and external perspective; the religious structure of Albanian population serves as a basis for contradiction between Christian and Muslim Albanians- moreover, the religious divide is seen as an obstacle towards the constitution of united Albanian nation. Furthermore, the author leads us to the analysis of the misleading premise- that Albanians are indifferent in religion-related sense. The Labor Party of Albania (sometimes referred to as the Albanian Workers' Party) was founded as a result of struggle for creation of the Albanian nation. Albanian Christians were striving

for left-oriented and communist ideals. Two main arguments were used to prove that point: one was showing that Christians were predominant among communists when the communist movement was formed; the other shows Christian domination within the party during the World War Two. However, after the World War Two and the Christian leaders' liquidation, the Muslims became dominant in the party. The Labor Party of Albania becomes the true representative of Islamic tradition. Why is analysis of religious antagonism within the ruling communist party in Albania important? It leads to an explanation of religion's role after the breakdown of the one-party system. With the breakdown of the one-party system, struggle for freedom of religion and renewed work of religious groups come to life. The impact of renewed religion was strongly influential; the growth and Islam's influence affected the relations between Greece and Albania, as well as the relations between Muslims and Catholics in Albania. The Albanian Question analysis would be incomplete without giving an insight into the role of religion in Kosovo and the role of the Islamic community in secession activities in Kosovo and Metohija. The Albanian issue, international relations and the stability of Balkans are strongly connected.

The first chapter of **"Political Orientations in the Works of Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic"** by Ksenija Martinovic is discussing Christian ethics in the political thoughts of Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic<sup>1</sup>. Moving from the ethical to esthetic aspects of Velimirovic's thoughts, Martinovic is exploring spiritual messages, esthetic of thoughts and moral. In **"Political Orientations in the Works of Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic"**, Martinovic dives into several works of Velimirovic, analyzing them from the esthetic, moral, ethical and political angle. *The concept of Serbian national statehood in Velimirovic's work* is raising several questions, from various theories on nation and national statehood, to the history of Serbs and the Orthodox Christian faith. The last chapter reveals the concept of Serbian national character in the works of Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic. After defining Serbian nationalism, Martinovic moves to the concepts of Svetosavlje<sup>2</sup> and nationalism- the nationalism of St. Sava. This chapter is the core of her work, where the aspects and the content of Svetosavlje's nationalism are explored.

**"Political Relations and Religion"** by Miroљub Jevtic aims at showing the inseparable ties between religion and politics. In spite of being the youngest, Politology of Religion is seen as one of the most important disciplines in the fields of political science. The monograph deals with several religious streams and the influence of confessional factors on numerous questions, such as the role of religion in the constitution of South Slavs' national identities, relations between religion and genders, ties between religion and migrations, the influence of religion on the population renewal in a biological sense and the multicultural

1 Nikolaj Velimirovic or Saint Nikolai Velimirovich of Ohrid and Zica (1881- 1956) was an influential theological writer.

2 Svetosavlje is Serbian Orthodox Christianity, built upon the work of St. Sava. Some sources define it as "Nationalism of Saint Sava".

society in general. The misuse of language in national and religious politics frame is discussed. In the context of Serbian question, the influence of religion on Serbia's conscience is explored, and the Serbian Orthodox diaspora and the unity of Orthodox Church in the USA are analyzed. The book discusses the political and religious questions in Ivo Andric's and Alexis de Tocqueville's works: while the roots of politology of religion can be traced in de Tocqueville's work, Andric's writings share certain Islamic political views. The example of religious political party is given in a chapter dedicated to the work of Komeito party.

**“Serbian Orthodox Church and Bearers of Political Power in Serbia from 1990 to 2006”** by Dragana Andjelkovic Petrusic gives an insight into modern Serbian statehood and its relation to Serbian Orthodox Church. Various roles and impacts of Serbian Orthodox Church in relation to Serbian statehood are described, such as organization and structure of Serbian Orthodox Church and its social impact. Furthermore, the focus moves to exploring the relations between Serbian Orthodox Church and subjects of political power. Within the topic, various questions are raised and analyzed- starting from the law and political regulations to the relation between the Serbian Orthodox Church and political parties, as well as NGOs. Relations between church and European values or democracy and church are some of the topic examined, upon which conclusions regarding the perspectives and potential development of future relations are made. The relations between Islam and nationalization and Islamisation and Albanisation are explained in the Albanian and ex-Yugoslavian context. The issue of interreligious relations in Albania and its influence on the military stability of Albania is discussed in the concluding chapter.

**“The Influence of Islam on the Status of Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina”** by Jasmina Indjic. The role of Islam in the beginnings of contemporary political systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina is addressing several issues- starting from the role of Islamic community in the breakup of SFR Yugoslavia. Influence of Islam on Party of Democratic Action (SDA) and its influence on profilation of political systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being explored. Bosnia and Herzegovina serves as an example of Islamic policies of the West. Indjic moves to exploring the social relations and the status of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina The law stands as an important category and both Sharia (Islamic) and secular law are observed in relation to the status of women. Various other factors (such as NGOs, Western culture, migrations) and their views and attitudes towards women are a crucial part of Indjic's analysis. Islamic marriage in contemporary Bosnia and Herzegovina develops discussion around the law regulations concerning Islamic and secular marriage, Islamic marriage rules, polygamy and mixed marriages, ending with the question of hijab's return. The relation between Islam and the secular order in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the role of women, shows the complexity of the subject. On the one hand, Indjic analyzes the influence of Wahhabism on women's position and the conflict between Hanafi School and Wahhabis regard-

ing women's question; on the other hand, she observes the position of women from the EU and professional associations perspective.

The planned editions are "The Role of Women within the Norms of Hinduism" by Biljana Ribic and "Politics and Religion in Belgrade Press at the End of 20<sup>th</sup> Century" by Ana Krazic.

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