

Orthodoxy, Ethnicity and Nationalism - The General Framework for a Theological Discussion

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Abstract

The theme of the relationship between religion, ethnicity and nationalism is not a new one within inter-Christian and inter-religious discussions. But in the last period this relation was transformed not infrequently in a real conflict which has reached alarming levels, being influenced by the current major economic, political and social crises. Regarding the Orthodox world, this problem has been raised since the nineteenth century, when the countries from Balkans, formed after the collapse of the great empires, discussed topics as ethnicity and nationalism, often reaching true disputes around the unity of Orthodoxy.

The Gospel destroys idols, speaking to all people, no matter of these constraints. The Gospel changes stereotypes and biases of all cultures, continuing to provoke us day by day. The Church is not just a community that proclaims the Gospel, but a community which lives and spreads the message in the midst of mankind. She works for the reconciliation of all society.