

## **Father Dumitru Stăniloae's View Regarding to Dogmatic Development**

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### **Abstract**

As a theological subject matter, the development of doctrine occurred in the context of the controversial debate between Catholic and Protestant theology. Two outstanding works are relevant for this topic. One such work dates back to 1845: John Henry Cardinal Newman's famous work, *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*. The other major contribution was written in 1969 by the great theologian Jaroslav Pelikan: *Development of Christian Doctrine: Some Historical Prolegomena*. However, even if it appears that Orthodox theology objects to the present subject matter, its contribution to the clarification of this debate could be substantial, if not crucial.

Considering the dogmatic significance of this matter, our study will attempt to illustrate Father Dumitru Stăniloae's viewpoint regarding the notion of dogma and the development of doctrine. We find this analysis necessary and essential, since no other work has managed to look into this matter so far. Moreover, when those authors who mention Father Dumitru Stăniloae in the context of the dogmatic development from an Orthodox perspective, point out quite succinctly his opinion on this matter, they include this discussion in the broader context of knowing God, Tradition, revelation, apophaticism, holiness and spirituality, and not in the strict and doctrinal sense of the concept of dogmatic development.