

Church - State Relations in Post-Communist Romania. Real Deprivatization or the Way Back to Byzantine Symphonia?

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Abstract

This paper starts from the belief that the realities of post-communist world, including the relations between Church and State, should benefit from an appropriate theoretical delineation, which is currently missing. This is more relevant if one bears in mind the relevance of Orthodox Church in Romania due to its high legitimacy among Romanian population, in a more general context described by an increasing relevance of religious issues, here being also included the European Union and the internal debates about its Christian roots, about the potential role of a catholic Poland or the eventuality of admitting a Muslim country within its borders.

Key words: secularization, deprivatization, Romanian Orthodox Church, Central and Eastern Europe, post-communism, Church – State relations