

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM AT ALBANIAN SOIL

This paper will treat the theme discussed throughout the years by scholars, politicians, diplomats, writers and Albanian and foreign journalists alike. In other words will talk about the co-existence and the practice of few religions, as a fact among Albanians. Based on authentic documents preserved by State Central Archive in Tirana, after a short exposé of political developments in the Balkans, particularly places populated by ethnic Albanians, some considerations and interesting conclusions can be reached on reason that forced Albanians to practice few religions. The fact that a large number of Albanian converted to Islam in today's Kosova, Montenegro and Macedonia as well as Albania populated with Albanians still remains a hot subject for discussion. Besides two main reasons widely accepted already such as: repression and privilege offered to Albanians by the invader, the author thinks that there could be another reason for those large conversions to this new religion coming from East. The pressure applied by our Christian neighbors in order to invade more Albanian land, ethnically cleanse, assimilate or kill them, has pushed Albanians to choose a new religion by refusing in this way to be identified as Serbs, Montenegrins, Greeks or Macedonians, based on religion practices. Protecting by all means their national identity regardless of their religion practice has transformed Albanians in a unique example worth being followed. Peaceful religion co-existence among Albanians is an extraordinary world- wide asset.