

FEATURES OF ISLAM'S DISSEMINATION IN ALBANIA

The history of Islam's dissemination in the Albanian territories, due to the specifics of this process in relation to other countries of the region, is linked with the prehistory of the dissemination and scattering of both wings of Christianity. The vacuum left by Christianity just in the Albanian territories is perhaps the strongest argument to give an answer to the question why Islam found a paved terrain in these territories and not in the neighbor countries and people. The precedent of the religious converting was part of the active political life of Albanian feudalists and much later it became part of the wide strata of population many times coexisting with typical phenomena like that of crypto-Christianity. Ottomans naturally bore Islam as part of their identity and in the same way, without any strain, they conveyed it in every terrain ready to absorb it. The way in which the ottomans came, as militaries, is not an argument to raise thesis on the allegedly dissemination of Islam by force. Every religion, dedicated its dissemination among other things to the political circumstances. After a long coexistence where the affirmation of the national character became a necessity for Albanians, they, without hesitating, dared to ask what belonged to them even though it meant the separation at this point from their analogues in religious feelings, at least for the major part of the Albanian population. In the period of the Albanian state, with bilateral efforts of both state and Muslim community, there were implemented deep reforms that opened the way to the establishment of a contemporaneous institution. Meanwhile, the most difficult period was that of the communist regime with a negative climax, the act of 1967. New issues of interest to be studied have emerged during the years of religion and religious values' restoration.