Секция «Философия. Культурология. Религиоведение»

Islam in the european value systems: challenges and tolerance

Алексанян Лейли Парсадановна
Студент
Ереванский Государственный Университет, Центр европейских обучемий (Centre for European Studies), Ереван, Армения
E-mail: leylialeks-ysu@mail.ru

MA 1st year student Leyli Aleqsanyan YSU, CES (Centre for European Studies) E-mail: leylialeks-ysu@mail.ru ISLAM IN THE EUROPEAN VALUE SYSTEMS: CHALLENGES AND TOLERANCE The relations between Islam and the European system of values have an urgent importance in the present conditions, and many of their aspects are studied by social scientists. The many problems that result from the interaction between religion and society are the centre of attention for these scientists, and small contemporary studies point to the fact that almost every day we witness conflicts between Europe's Muslims and the non-Muslim population. The aim of this work is the presentation of certain data showing that Islam in Europe won't be characterized by integration with the passage of time, as is expected, but it will cause new conflicts that will be of a political nature. In Europe, nations and religion have always been interwoven and closely related. By adopting a policy of tolerance, Europe has assumed a lot of commitments, particularly concerning the problem of minority religions, such as to respect their religion, traditions, rituals, etc. The migration of Muslims to Europe has in different periods created problems for different reasons. Multiculturalism intensifies the conflicts and tensions. Globalization and individualism have paradoxically deepened the religious issues of our day. The first two invasions[1, According to Carolyn M. Warner and Manfred W. Wenner, Religion and the Political Organization of Muslims in Europe, APSA journal: Muslims first invaded Europe in the 8th century, conquering the Iberian Peninsula and later the greater part of France. Even Switzerland and Italy were subject to violence by Muslim armies. These Muslims were driven out of Europe only in the 15th century, slowly and with a lot of difficulty. The next invasion took place in the 15th to 17th centuries when the Ottoman Empire "inundated" the Balkans with Muslims and even reached the gates of Vienna.] were wars, and they destroyed cultural monuments in Europe. The recent, third, invasion is defined by immigration and cultural destruction of the European system of values, such as clashes, murders, mixed marriages and a low level of integration of Muslims, which causes new problems. In our opinion Islam and Europe are now in a struggle that is already resulting in large numbers of clashes between Muslims and Europeans. We believe that the collision of Islam with Europe is the result of freedom of speech, women's rights, democracy, etc. In places in the East where there are Islamic laws, Muslims are entitled to all rights and powers granted to the Koran itself. Settling in Europe, however, followers of Islam are obliged to take into account European laws and rights, which causes clashes. As already mentioned, for Muslims their religion is their identity, in which they live and exist. Coming to Europe and living under other laws, Muslims have to restrict, fetter their own identity, and their religion becomes the reason for the rise of intolerance in Europe. The primary reason for the so-called phenomenon of intolerance in my opinion caused by islamaphobia. Islamophobia refers to unfounded fear of and hostility towards Islam. Such fear and hostility leads to discriminations against Muslims, exclusion of

Muslims from mainstream political or social process, stereotyping, the presumption of guilt by association, and finally hate crimes[2, p. 242-244.]. But on the other hand if we carefully research what preaches Jihad, then there will not be difficult to come to the conclusion that Islam and Christianity in Europe had, have and will have clashes on religious grounds. To many Muslims this concept has exclusively meant a never-ending war against other faiths in the path of God[4, p. 6 -118.]. That's why jihad has historically been one particular concept to provoke Muslims for terrorism. Jihad, however, has a much broader meaning than this, Jihad is primarily a social concept to mobilize believers to do good deeds for both themselves and their communities, it is a fight between the believers and social diseases[3, p. 231-330.]. The relationship between Islam and Europe can be characterized as a clash of civilizations. While the churches and governments of Europe are independent from each other and the Christian churches are not dependent on governments, we can't say the same in the case of Islam. We believe that the integration of the Muslim population into European society is a problem to be solved in the near future. A solution is still far away. Almost always in this region there is a "clash of civilizations."Only if in the past, these clashes were largely confined to the regional nature, now, speaking about the problems existing with Islam, we can call them as an externally regional. Not were being full-fledged citizens of Europe, the Muslim part of the emigrants, migrating to Europe at different times, cause a new problems. This phenomenon we can describe as regional appearance, which becomes the cause of intra-regional issues. "Foreign Citizen" becomes a "Domestic citizen", "External threat" becomes an "Internal threat". Consequently, there is a need to eliminate this threat, and if not, there are necessary preconditions for this, at least to minimize it, so as not to aggravate further the "clash of civilizations."In our opinion the integration of Muslim immigrants in Europe will be relatively effective only when the clash of civilizations can be changed into a productive interaction of civilizations.

Литература

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