

“ANTHROPOLOGY OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN THE ALBANIAN CONTEXT”

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Abstract

In this paper we will initially discuss about the formation of cultures and societies from the anthropologic aspect, to continue with the development of Albanian culture and society even from our ancient genesis, i.e. from the Stone Age and onwards. This will be based on the earliest records regarding the culture of our ancestors, continuing with the unceasing stages of development and evolution of this process, without hesitating to also address borrowings from the cultures of the neighboring peoples who have continuously displayed efforts not only to influence but also to assimilate Albanian population with all of its rich history. Although history proves that during these development processes many peoples have “lost” their past by mixing and changing their culture and language, Albanian people persisted with the highest level of dignity, thus preserving its own Illyrian origin. What makes this fact even more specific is that our history, our culture and language have been rather popular until lately due to lack of authentic researches; yet, during the past recent years, nearly all European cultures and civilizations are associated with and explained through the ancient language of this nation. The paper will recap with an assessment on the extent and the way how the recent developments have impacted our culture and society and if there is anything from the past, regardless of the modernization and the need to pursue the society development trends, that should still be cultivated within our culture and society. On the other hand, there will be an assessment of the nature of impacts caused by rapid development which is not abreast with the development of the society as a whole, particularly transitioning into the democratic system and what needs be undertaken in order to harmonize and keep in balance, alongside other components, the development of the Albanian culture and society.