

MULTICULTURALISM IN MACEDONIA AFTER THE CONFLICT IN 2001

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Abstract

The multiculturalism as an ideology and a process continues to be one of the most debated topics in the academic cycles. States apply different mechanisms regarding inclusion of ethnic groups in public institutions and public life. Practices show results that determine cases of integration to complete segregation and separation. Process of nation building in Macedonia, particularly the concept of nation state declared in preamble of the Constitution of 1991, generated in the country the armed conflict between Macedonians and Albanians, where the latter considered themselves discriminated and unequally represented. The Ohrid Framework Agreement, signed in 2001, as a document brought peace, paved the way for further political empowerment of all ethnic communities living in Macedonia, and preserved the multi-ethnic character of the state. Hence, the paper analyzes the multiculturalism policy formulation and application within the theoretical framework of Charles Taylor and Will Kymlicka, considering the politics of recognition and multicultural citizenship. It concludes that there have been found improvements in public sphere and in the communication between different communities in the country but inter-ethnic relations still remain fragile. It further elaborates that to some degree decentralization process as a model for power sharing, positive discrimination in employments in public administration and use of languages served the purposes for building state stability and coexistence in the community. In this paper it is suggested that political parties in the country should not misuse the question of coexistence and to avoid provoking inter-ethnic tensions because membership and identification of a person with the ethnic group still is strong.

Keywords: *multiculturalism, ethnic group, public policies, public institutions, Macedonia.*