

FAITH AND RELIGION IN ALBANIA OF THE 19 CENTURY AND THE BEGINING OF 20TH CENTURY

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Abstract

The science of Albanology starts to develop in the 19th century and with the passing of time it would attract the foreing and intelectual authors of the time period. The unknown of the albanian people starts to surface, eventhough under the turkish empire invasion. The travellers in the albanian areas as Pukevil, Ami Boue, Martin Leake, Ibrahim Manzur Efendi, and other authors of this century as Zhan Klod Faverial not only brought into awareness the history of our nation, but also various important aspects of albanian cultural, spiritual, social, religious life and belief. Faith and religion were an important part of the spiritual life of the nation, eventhough it is complex it represents the reality of the time period. The religious life in this period is reflected in three main sections: muslim, christian orthodox and christian catholic. In their works the foreign authors determine the overall geographic distribution of these religious faiths in albanian areas and the problems that characterize the religious belief in albanian population. Information for Albania and albanians in the 19th century and the 20th century is based in the analyses of the observation and views of the travellers of albanian territory and the foreing authors who set up the foundaton of the science of albanology. The works of 19th century dedicated to Albania and Albanians are written as memories and very rarely are they reported as facts or historical documents. Nevertheless, they offer plenty of information for the perception toward albanians by supporting subjectivisms and unclear evedence, but when these works are analyzed with evidence from other authors we find undeniable truths.

Keywords: *Albania, travelers, nation, religion, faith.*