

PRINCIPLE OF SECULARISM IN 100 YEARS OF STATE, BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

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Abstract

After downfall of the Ottoman Empire, the religious panorama in Albania reflected inevitable forms of five centuries of Islam. Unlike other Balkan countries, it seemed that the small country was brought under the power of the religion of the invader and at the time of the declaration of Independence of Albania in 1912, the country was presented not only with a new majority religion, but also with a new stream of it, namely Sufism. On the other hand, also the Christian religion presented two interpretations of it divided in two communities, Catholic and Orthodox one. This reality made possible for the Albanian State genesis to provide in its statutes also the principle of state secularism. The Declaration of Independence expresses in itself, though not explicitly, a form of separation between orders, with the goal detachment from the Sublime Porte. Perhaps self Renaissance hymn “Religion of Albanians is Albanianism” inadvertently hides inside a kind of principle of secularization. After all, did these hymn words were the union without religious affiliation? Is not this the essence and the matter of the principle of secularism of the State? But, in reality it was the organic statute that provided expressly for the first time this principle, perhaps because of the fact that six world powers were aware of the multi-religious situation in the region and not unintentionally brought to the throne a Prince of Protestant religion. Later, it was the amended Lushnja statute to include in its articles not only the principle of secularization, but also a kind of separation between the state and the spiritual order, this spirit included in the statute of Kingdom of Albanians King, or King Zog. After a moment of silent repeal with the advent of fascism, the principle of secularism appears even silent in communist Albania, which lead to extreme its sense bursting into a form of state active atheism. It was the “spring of freedoms” after 90s that brought the principle according to which it would be inspired the fragile state and its institutions of “democracy”, but maybe after the dark years of atheism and socio-economic problems of Albanians, this principle did not took its importance as in other countries. Today, it triumphs in the new constitution of 1998 and even now when Europe looks to be in war between civilizations and where religion seems to claim the primacy of multiethnic coexistence, historically multi-religious Albania is presented as a model to be followed. The purpose of this paper aims an introspective overview on the principle of secularism under an historical reflection background to understand how this principle has evolved and at the same time looks the same, how it managed to discipline a society as complex as the Albanian one transforming it into a functional secularism.

Keywords: *secularism, Europe, religion, Albania.*