

Psychology of Nationalism And Religion in the Example of the Serbian Orthodox Church During the 80s and after of the XX Century

Maja Kaninska

Ph.D Religious Studies, Faculty of Theology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Abstract

This paper will show the psychological construction of nationalism, which is a widespread phenomenon in societies around the world with internal social, economic and political radical changes. Religion also has an ideological structure as nationalism, and for that exists a fundamental explanation. Religion is an exclusive pattern because of its eternity, which is omnipresent and because of its constituent elements (religious beliefs and feelings, rituals and symbols, as well as the fifth element - clergy) that psychologically fulfill human spiritual needs. Influenced by historical events and many social changes that people have experienced, religion has very often taken it upon itself to maintain some visions that have always been of special significance to man. After the process of secularization, religion was marginalized and reduced to its elementary activity (in Christianity, baptism, marriage, burial). However, its ideological postulates remained in the function of the new secular environment and manifested themselves with recognizable religious characteristics, which is given in the paper through a theoretical psychological approach.

Keywords: Psychology, nationalism, religion, prejudices, stereotypes, Serbian Orthodox Church