

Thus, the main result is that the political dichotomy between the right-wing and left-wing is disappearing in the Czech Republic.

“Maybe they were monitoring us” – the case of Buddhism in normalization

Czechoslovakia

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In this paper I examine the relationship of the state and religion during the period of normalization in Czechoslovakia – a field that has not gain much attention of the scholars so far. This historical period needs to be researched in much more detail in order to explain the contemporary specific situation for religions in the Czech Republic. I focus on the case of Buddhism, often presented as non-conflicting and adaptive religion, however, since ever a minority religion with a history of local presence that goes back to the 19th century. The paper presents the outcomes of an empirical research; in particular, I examine the social praxis connected to the creation of the images of Buddhism involved by the state on one hand, and the social praxis connected to the creation of the images of the state involved by the Buddhists on the other.

God, Salazar and Human Rights in Portugal

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Our work aims to analyze the role and influence of religion and state in the human rights charter in each country.

In the Portuguese case that we use as an example, religion and politics had a strong and clear influence in the definition and construction of fundamental rights.

In Portugal, the state assumed for a long time, till 1976, that the Catholic religion as the official religion. This fact contributed to the close relationship between religion, politics and human rights. Under a dictatorship regime, the Governments of Salazar were, in this respect, decisive. Analyzing our fundamental law, specially the last two Constitutions, we can see how far the relation between religion and politics influenced the definition of human rights. So we can establish a link between different historical moments and political regimes and the construction of human rights and the way society respected this rights.

Indeed, religion and the state are two phenomenon with a decisive influence on the construction of fundamental rights.

Constitution, the fundamental law, is a reflection of political options, nonetheless also reflects the fundamental principles of the most representative religion.

Portugal's example is a clear case of how the law didn't represent an active changing role.

The law merely reflected the status quo, which is why the study of human rights in Portugal calls for a review of the history of religion and political power in this country. This requires a careful review of the Salazar government period.

RN34S01 - Religion and Social Class in Turkey

The Conflicting Middle Classes: Religious Polarization and Search for Authenticity in Contemporary Turkey

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