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Dimensions of Religious Pluralism.

Abstracts.

ABSTRACTS

Immigration and the New Religious Pluralism. A Comparison between the European Union and the United States

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This text compares the fit of migration processes and the emergence of religious pluralism in the European Union and the United States. The main thesis of the author is that the social contexts of the reception of this new immigration are marked by the way in which both societies define the presence of religion in their public spaces. Nevertheless, the differentiated fit of some immigrant groups in accordance with their religious affiliation suggests that both societies react in a different way in front of different groups. Thus, with regard to Islam, the European societies construct the image of the "religious other", perceiving their social fit as being problematic. In the United States, the incorporation of Islam adopts other parameters from the moment in which religious affiliation is recognised as being a valid element for its social fit.

Key words: European Union, United States, religion, immigration, culture

Freedom of Conscience and Conviction in the Spanish Constitutional System

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This text analyses the constitutional principles of the Spanish legal system in the area of religion: freedom of religion, religious equality, the laicity of the State and co-operation

with religious denominations. It is based on these criteria that Spain defines freedom of conscience and conviction as a fundamental right. The author suggests that safeguarding these basic rights involves positive action on the part of all of the public powers, with the objective of guaranteeing the real, effective exercising of them.

Key words: Spain, religion, Constitution, secularism, pluralism

The Process of Secularisation in Spanish Society

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This article analyses the process of secularisation in Spain, primarily based on three interrelated social logics, the first two as result of historical processes and the third with a more recent point of departure: a) the logic of the secularisation of consciences; b) the logic of the secularisation of society and the State; and c) the logic that could be called the breaking up of cultural homogeneity, which started with the flow of transnational immigration that Spain began to receive very close to the end of the 20th century. For this, the author divides the process into three different waves of secularisation that go from the 19th century to the present day, and he demonstrates its evolution with statistics.

Key words: Spain, religion, immigration, secularisation

Europe between Laicity and Denominationalism. Some Paths of Reflection

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In this work, the author examines the place that religion currently occupies in society as well as its capacity for organising the perception of identities and influencing certain policies. It argues that, beyond the effectiveness of religious practice, a rather minority phenomenon, today religion plays a not inconsiderable role as a social language of identification in an increasingly heterogeneous social space due to the multiplicity of cultural, religious and ideological refer-

ences that characterise it. After reviewing the diversity of denominational models that characterise the different countries of Europe, and their relationship with the process of secularisation, he focuses on the idea of secularisation in order to try to demonstrate the extent to which it is a fundamental notion for the organisation of civil society and its democratic space. Finally, the author points out the need to separate this notion from any dogmatic approach that consists of rigidly separating religion and society, public space and private space, as well as opening it up to a detailed and democratically negotiated recognition of cultural and religious diversity.

Key words: Europe, religion, secularism, secularisation

The Challenges of the Local Management of Ethnic-Religious Diversity in Montreal: The Case of the Fitting Out of Places of Worship

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Based on the case of Montreal, the author reviews the set of experiences of public intervention in the area of management of ethnic-religious diversity, which has led to the formulation of new debates with regard to the fit of this plurality in the urban space. The challenges posed by the incorporation of these new religious references in the configuring of the urban fabric also opens up questions on the meaning of cohabitation in increasingly plural neighbourhoods.

Key words: Canada, religion, local government, immigration, multiculturalism, city planning

The City of Mantes-la-Jolie and "Its" Mosque. A New Political-Religious Order under Construction?

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The author reconstructs the process of building the mosque in Mantes-la-Jolie, which, for her, represents a clear example of how policies regarding the local management of reli-

gious pluralism are evolving in France. The study of the involvement of the different local actors throughout this process demonstrates the model of strict separation of political things in the affairs of religious communities that the French model of secularism defines. The political imperatives on the local level or the determination of the representations of these groups pose situations in which this separation is clearly overcome.

Key words: France, Islam, local government, management, cultural plurality

Public Space and Plurality of Beliefs

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In this work, the author deals with how the issue of religion can be managed in the public space. For this, he wonders and argues whether or not the public space should be a homogeneous space from the point of view of convictions or if it can give room to heterogeneous expressions, stemming from the plurality of profound convictions existing among the citizens. In addition, he lays out the concept of public space, discusses its "contaminations" and focuses fundamentally on its meaning as a place in which the supply, exchange and debate of ideas, principles, intuitions, etc. are openly developed, although he devotes a little bit of attention to their most tangible or physical aspects. And he underscores the idea that in a context of democratically chosen public powers and a secular institutional framework, there should not exist privileges nor discriminations.

Key words: Spain, Catalonia, religion, city planning, public works, values system

Law, the Opening of Places of Worship, and Freedom of Religion

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This article aims to be a brief reflection on the role of law in regard to the development of the right to religious freedom in a specific aspect: the right to establish places of

worship. For this, the author refers to several international legal experiences as well as the cases of Spain and Europe. In this latter case, he argues his thesis based on the sentence by the European Human Rights Court in the "Vergos versus Greece" case, on a city planning decision that could affect freedom of religion.

Key words: law, international law, religion, city planning

The Catholic Church and the Secular State

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The Pope's visit to Valencia (Spain) on the 8th and 9th of July, 2006, to close the 5th World Meeting of Families was programmed by the Spanish ecclesiastic hierarchy, the Vatican and the Popular Party of Valencia as a gigantic staged performance of the political confrontation between the Catholic Church and the Socialist Government. However, the tragedy in the Valencia subway system, which cost the lives of 42 people, lowered the political tension. Benedict XVI used a conciliatory tone open to dialogue with the Head of the State and President of the Government, although he kept his defence of the family founded on the indissoluble matrimony between a man and a woman as the fundamental pillar of society intact and unchanging. The objective is none other than to modestly collaborate in the construction of the secular State, which is encountering so many difficulties along the way.

Key words: religion, Church, Catholicism, State, secularism

The Necessary Laicity

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In the present article, the author contextualises and reasons about the concept of inclusive laicity, which is so necessary for good coexistence in our society, where at certain times in history both the attempt to impose religion or denominationalism and the attempt to exclude it from public life and deny it as a carrier of valid values have occurred. The perspective of inclusive laicity offers an appropriate framework for the different cultural

and religious traditions to be able to dialogue in order to establish a large consensus on the principles and values that should be set up based on civic dialogue among those who have something to contribute to this project. The different religious denominations, and the Catholic Church in particular, given its social importance, should heed the invitation made by the project of inclusive laicity and debate, in the public space, what values should be integrated into this Agreement for Coexistence. Today the Spanish society faces the challenge of progressing toward a new understanding of laicity capable of taking advantage of the ethical energy of religious denominations and liberating thought.

Key words: Spain, religion, Church, society, secularisation, secularism

The Expansion of UN Peacekeeping Operations and the Case of Lebanon

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With almost sixty years of experience, the United Nations peacekeeping operations have again been challenged, this time in Lebanon. These missions have evolved following three trends developed after the Cold War: the transformation of "first-generation" or traditional missions into other broader and more complex ones; the growing impact of the North/South cleavage in them; and progressive regionalisation. However, the reinforced mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is an operation with a traditional legacy that has particularities. It is more robust; it is led, exceptionally, by European countries; and it faces numerous challenges. This article examines how, although the above-mentioned trends determine the directives of peacekeeping for the near future, the UNIFIL repeats the need to adopt a classical approach in Lebanon adapted to new realities. The author analyses how, despite not covering some elements on the international security agenda since the September 11th attacks, these operations are reconstituted at the beginning of the 21st century as an indispensable element in international relations increasingly in need of a social approach.

Key words: UN, Lebanon, peacekeeping operations

Pre-emptive Defence against International Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction: A Reasoned Critique

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The 9-11 terrorist attacks had serious repercussions on the world stage, giving rise, among other effects, to a protracted debate on the conditions in which the use of force to fight against terrorism might be justified or not under international law. In the United States, there were those who advocated in favour of pre-emptive action against the terrorists, and those who were protecting and harbouring them, within the framework of a large scale 'war' against terrorism. This gave rise to the 'Bush doctrine' of the 'pre-emptive attack' to fight against international terrorism and those who possessed weapons of mass destruction that might be used against opponents or for terrorist purposes. Although some people felt that this version of 'pre-emption' in the unilateral use of force strayed from the traditional parameters of self-defence, others considered it to be an adaptation of these parameters to the new needs arising from the threat posed by terrorist groups and outlaw states.

Key words: defence, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, security, sovereignty