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***Violeta Zhuchenko***

*Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University*

*Vynnytsia*

*Research Supervisor: I. Yu. Charskykh, PhD in History, Assoc. Prof.*

*Language Advisor: Ya. V. Hryhoshkina, PhD in Philology, Ass. Prof.*

## **ORTHODOXY AS A SUBJECT AND OBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Introduction.** At the present stage of our society development there is an increasing role of religions, including Orthodoxy, in the international relations. The topic is becoming more and more relevant in our time. No significant event in our social life can occur without the participation of the church that influences relations and political events. Considering the rapid development of the Orthodox religion as an actor of international relations, the topic is getting more and more attention.

**Review of recent publications.** The issue of the religion's role in the international relations concerns many scholars, but the role of the Orthodox Church itself is less presented. This is mainly referred to the literature of the 1990s, when this issue was considered again.

There should be mentioned several works among the important work of researchers: 1) Lebedev A. P. "Essays on the internal history of the Byzantine-Oriental church in the IX, X and XI centuries" presented in the book "Collection of church and historical writings"; 2) Sahan O. "Ecumenical Orthodoxy: essence, history, modern state"; 3) Hrushevskiy M. S. "From the history of religious thought in Ukraine". These book make up the background for the current paper.

**Objectives of the paper.** The purpose of the study is to investigate the influence of the Orthodox Church on the international relations and its place on the international arena. Objectives of the study imply:

- 1) to analyze studies about the influence of Orthodoxy on the international relations;
- 2) to study the etymology of the term *Orthodoxy*;
- 3) to identify the causes of the rapid development of Orthodoxy as an actor of international relations.

**Results of the research.** The peculiarities of the Orthodox religion are analyzed. To conclude, the Orthodox religion is a very complex religious and historical phenomenon with the important place in the world, not only in the ideological life of individuals, but it also plays a leading role in the political life of peoples and states.

The etymology, structure and distribution of the Orthodox Church are investigated. The notion “orthodoxy” came through Latin from late Greek *orthodoxia* ‘sound doctrine’ in the middle of the 17th century, where *orthos* meant ‘straight or right’ + *doxa* ‘opinion’, i.e ‘the right opinion’. A theoretical analysis of the current research on the influence of Orthodoxy on the international relations is made, and we come to conclusion that religion has a significant influence on the international relations at this stage.

The significant influence of Orthodoxy on a society and its widespread popularity is due to the peculiarities of the national mentality, the main component of which is religious spirituality.

As a result of the work it became clear that Orthodoxy is a very complex religious and historical phenomenon, which takes a great place in the world, not only in the ideological life of individuals, but also plays a leading role in the political life of nations.

**Conclusion.** The Orthodox Church is a very complex, heterogeneous religious and historical phenomenon that has created numerous churches with millions of followers, and it has been taking a significant position in the world in terms of the ideological, economic and political life. Not only external conflicts, but also internal conflicts of the Orthodox Church, have an impact on the international environment.

Orthodox organizations are active participants in the political life and have demonstrated the contradictory influence on inter-state relations.

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