

DEMOCRACY, RELIGION AND PRESENT DAY BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA

Panel of the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

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General Informations:

The sixth international seminar is organized in co-operation with the Dept. of Comparative Politics and the Rokkan Centre, Univ. of Bergen, Norway, and supported by the Project *The Politics of Democratic and Welfare Development in South Eastern Europe: A Network for Research and Education*, backed by the Center for International Univ. Cooperation and the Norwegian Research Council, Oslo.

Date: July 7-11, 2003.

Place: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Although there is no set deadline for the submission of papers, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible. Contact Alexander Mirescu: mirea100@newschool.edu.

For details on the seminar, please contact Dzemat Sokolovic: Dzemat.Sokolovic@isp.uib.no.

Transport and accommodation information is available at the Institute's web site: <http://www.democracy-konjic.org> or http://www.bosnet.org/democracy_institute/.

For the purpose of this panel discussion, the organizers welcome submissions in English. We encourage contributions from the following academic fields: political science, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, cultural studies and any other related areas of study.

The purpose of this panel discussion is to observe the efforts made by the three dominant denominations – Eastern Orthodoxy, Islam and Catholicism – towards creating a foundation upon which democratic understanding might flourish. Although far from what many observers would have called a religious conflict, one must conclude *ex post* that religion did take an increasingly important role in ethnic identity formation. Moreover, all three churches, in their own ways, share some degree of responsibility for discounting democratic principles and religious tolerance among the members of their respective congregations *vis-a-vis* their »other« neighbors. In the current Dayton period, what type of role is religion playing in present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina? Are their prospects for secularization or will Bosnia remain a divided society along confessional lines? What are the prospects for democratic institutionalization in multi-ethnic/multi-confessional societies?

Suggested topics for discussion

- The role of ecumenical leaders in reconciling their most recent errors leading up to, during and after the conflict
- Religion and the strengthening of civil society in post-conflict situations
- The (re)-building of confidence and tolerance across ethnic/confessional cleavages
- The future of religion in Bosnia – a unified, secular state or a fragmented community?
- Applying successful practices from other post-conflict areas to the Bosnian case (Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Macedonia, CIS, Kosovo etc.)