

Summary

Subject matter: The relations between the state and the confessions in a modern Russian political process.

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Topicality of the research: the theme of our research is seen as quite topical due to the multi-confessional and multi-national composition of the Russian Federation. At present Russia is home for the representatives of over 60 different confessions and over 170 ethnic groups, so the state policy in the sphere of freedom of conscience is an important factor of the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation. The present and the future of the Russian Federation, its development as a democratic and legal state depend on the building of the optimal model of the policy in the sphere of the freedom of conscience. The ongoing efforts in the RF to build the concepts and models of the state policy in the sphere of the freedom of conscience testify to the topicality of this problem.

The objectives of the work are the study of the socio-political processes of the development of the system of the relations between the state and the confessions; and also the establishment of the perspective directions and ways of the state policy in the sphere of the optimal interaction with the key confessions of the modern Russian society.

Tasks of the research:

- to study the main directions and processes of the evolution of the relations between the states and the confessions in the broad socio-political context of the reforming of the Russian society in the late XX – early XXI c.c.;
- to find out the content of the state policy in the sphere of the interaction between the state and the main confessions of the Russian society;
- to research into the main socio-political factors that had shaped the interactions between the state and the main confessions;

– to determine the perspective directions and methods of the state policy in the sphere of the optimal interaction between the main confessions.

Theoretical significance of the research consists in the fact that we have made an attempt to formulate the theoretical principles of the essence and content of the relation between the state and the confessions as a socio-political category of the political science, analyzed the means and ways of the optimization of the influence of the state and church relations on the development of the Russian Federation and the use of the positive activity of the traditional confessions as the subjects of the civil society emerging in the RF.

Practical significance of the research is that its materials can be used for the development of the academic courses “Topical issues of the religious policy in the RF”, “Concepts of the religious policy in the countries of Western Europe and North America”.

Results of the research: the development of the positive tendencies in the sphere of the ethnopolitics and the state and church relations in the years to come will be all the more successful, the quicker the state will be able to relinquish the inertia of the past decades when the policy in the field of the relations between the state and the church has been regarded as something third-rate. The relations between the state and the church will be able to become a positive factor of the state’s domestic policy if it will not only declare the freedom of conscience and confession but will also guarantee and protect this constitutional principle.

Recommendations: in our opinion, the existing Russian political realia, the policy and practice of the interrelations between the state and the confessions should be subject to certain correction:

– In modern conditions the role of the state in the interaction with the religious organizations should be changed. In the conditions of the increasing influence of the church and the religious consciousness the state should provide its citizens with the broadest opportunities to profess their religion and study their religious culture.

– The state and the traditional confessions need to take joint efforts to develop and realize the humanistic moral and ethical guiding lines for the Russian society.