

Philosophy, Religion and Public Policy

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Philosophy, Religion and Politics: Contributions and Perspectives of *Politology of Religion*

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Philosophy has always been connected with the two main spheres of human action: religion and politics, which themselves has their roots in the history of mankind. This significant relation between philosophy, religion and political power has evolved in various ways over the centuries and nowadays it occurs with an high complexity.

In the field of research about religion and political power, there is a strong tradition of European studies and in recent years the academic reflection had a big increase; at the same time, the scientific thinking is dismembered between different disciplines, such as political science, political philosophy, philosophy of history, sociology of religion, etc.

In this paper I wish to present, among others, a particular contribution which gave an accurate address to these studies, thanks to an interdisciplinary perspective that unites many different approaches. I refer to a successful attempt done in the early '90s, when two distinct schools laid the theoretical foundations of a new discipline: political science of religion, also called *politology of religion* or *politology of religion*.

In Eastern Europe, Miroslav Jevtic founded the Center for Study of Religion and Religious Tolerance at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, in 1993. In Germany, Claus E. Bärsch, (disciple of Eric Voegelin) gathered a group of scholars and researchers at Duisburg University, creating in 1996 the Institut für Religionspolitologie. Interesting contributions from this school were collected in 2005 in a volume programmatically entitled *Wer Religion erkennt, kennt Politik nicht: "Who disregards religion does not know politics"*.

Here will be discuss the differences between these two schools, their perspectives and contributions and their relation with philosophy of religion.