Revista Română de Geografie Politică ISSN 1582-7763, E-ISSN 2065-1619

THE GEOPOLITICS OF RELIGIONS CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIZATION OF THE PLANET BETWEEN 1900 AND 2100

Luca DIACONESCU *

University of Oradea, Doctoral School of geography, 1st, Universității St., 410087, Oradea, Romania, e-mail: <u>diaconesculuca@yahoo.ro</u>

Citation: Diaconescu, L. (2019). The Geopolitics of Religions Christian-Islamization of the Planet Between 1900 and 2100. *Revista Română de Geografie Politică*, 21(2), 44-xxx. https://doi.org/10.30892/rrgp.212102-327

Abstract: The development of science did not endanger the belief in the divinity, perhaps even reinforcing its existence. Atheism has failed to grow, and dominant religions such as Christianity and Islam are stronger than ever. Atheism European, Indian Hinduism, and anemism in North Africa are being replaced by Islam, and Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism in East Asia as well as anemism in southern Africa are replaced by Christianity, these directions leading up to 2100 to a bipolar world, divided between a well developed Christian half and an Islamic half with demographic explosion, both religions rising to 70% of the world's total population, from just 46% in 1900.

Key words: mega-religions, evolution, replaced, population, the world

* * * * * *

INTRODUCTION

During the twentieth century, an avalanche of forecasts emerged that predicted a world of atheism and the loss of religious values along with the development of science and knowledge. But reality is far from these predictions, and science has not denied or demonstrated the lack of divinity, or even strengthened trust in God with the discovery of the history of the planet or technological advances, and the existence of an overpowering power that is found in everything and everything.

Religious buildings are growing fast throughout the planet, religions that bring glory to God gain a growing appreciation, and the referral to divinity is present in the public discourse of most world leaders, be it heads of state and governments, companies or organizations, proving the direction of mankind at the forefront of the brightest ends.

Hence the worsening of the wars for the primacy of Islam and Christianity as well as their rush to seize more and more populations, with a flurry of Islam in: India, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, North Africa and parts of Europe as well as

^{*} Corresponding Author

the advancement of Christianity into: China, Indochina, Oceania, and southern half of Africa, trends that will shape the geopolitical world of the world by 2100 (Roy, 2001, p. 207-230, 276-279; Graziano, 2018).

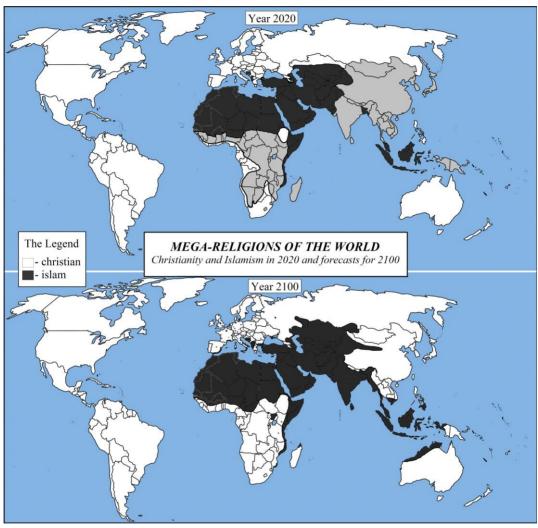


Figure 1. Extending Christian and Islamic religions until 2100 (Source: Duby, 2015; Meinhardt and Schafer, 1996, p. 158; Atlas of World History, 2009; Lexikon Institut, 2007, p. 186; Zahn et al., 2000, p. 238)

THE GROWTH OF ISLAMO-CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN THE XX CENTURY

The expansion of the two mega-religions has for centuries been the main reason for the great wars, colonialism and hordes of immigrants. Islam has captured parts of northern Africa, south west and central Asia to the west (Pakistan) or eastern (Bangladesh) India, and seas and oceans to: Indonesia, Malaysia, Zanzibar or Mozambique (John, 2008, p. 63-103). Christianity, in turn, swiftly expanded from Europe to the north and central Asia, and to seas and oceans in: America, Oceania, the Philippines, and the southern coast of Africa. With the expansion of the means of communication, television, telephony and the Internet as well as the development of means of transport throughout the 20th century, these two mega-religions have gained even greater connotation and their teachings are well preserved by the elderly and adored by young people (Brown, 2009, p. 236-279).

If in 1900 Christianity and Islam accounted for 46% of the world's population (760 million believers), over 50 years account for 49% of the world's population (1.2 billion believers). Over the next 50 years, by the year 2000, the cumulative Christian and Islamic population have also risen by 3%, reaching 52% of the world's total population (3.2 billion believers) (Graziano, 2017).

THE PRESENT MIRACLE THE 21st CENTURY OR THE CHRISTIAN-ISLAMIC CENTURY

With the development of science, the education of the world's population, the fight against illiteracy and the livelihood, this progress did not endanger the belief in divinity, and even led to the expansion of the number of believers at the beginning of the 21st century, from 52% of the total population the world with 3.25 billion Christians and Islamists in 2000, to 54% of the world's population by 3.8 billion in 2019.

It turns out that the loss of faith and the expansion of atheism with new scientific discoveries is only a false premonition, the technological and scientific advances proving and strengthening the trust in divinity.

The wars known today as the economic ones, the rush of energy resources, the water, the intarsia, or the interethnic, will be shaded in the future by the fierce war for world primacy between Islam and Christianity, and between them and the opposing religions, being most likely the dominant trend of the 21st century.

We are in the year 2019, when the world is progressing at a rapid pace. World economy has grown from \$ 33 trillion in 2000 to \$ 90 trillion, the population has risen by 5.2 billion between 1950 and 2019 from just 2.5 billion to 7, 7 billion, the mega-cities with more than 10 million inhabitants have increased from 1 in 1950 to 25 in 2000 and 60 at present, the population living in the city rising from 30% of the world's total population in 1950 to 55% the technological advance has reached unimaginable odds one or two centuries ago, the planet is covered by the road network, rail, cables and pipelines, the sky is covered by planes and the Earth's orbit of the satellites, agriculture is also produced in the desert with genetically modified plants, fertilizers and irrigation systems, people are about to is born in test tubes and large breeding centers, robotics replaces human strength and intelligence, and half of the world's population has access to the internet. In all this SF-worthy picture, the mega-religions of the planet are increasingly appreciated and present, being in a fierce expansion, with 54% of the population of the practicing planet of its Christianity Islam, up 2% over year 2000 (Wright, 2009; Graal trans., 2009a, 2009b; Diaconescu, 2017, 2018).

The fulminant evolution of the two mega-religions can be considered the twenty-first century miracle, which has left 46% of the world's population in 1900, with an increase of 3% for every 50 years, and an acceleration to 2% at 20 years in the beginning of the 21^{st} century, this phenomenon will be galloping to 8-10% growth over the next 30 years and another 8-10% towards the end of the century, with 70% of the total population of the world of Christian or Islamic religion in the total population of the planet.

With the overpopulation of the planet, fulminant development and population education, by stopping colonialism and expanding democracies culminating in the globalization and emergence of an increasing number of independent and sovereign states, Christian and Islamic mega-religions tend to encompass the entire planet, moving from their traditional value, through a combination of scientific and archaeological discoveries, to a value with a modern tinge in which science has not become challenged to religion and the proof of existence (Keller, 2009; Avram, 2009; Herman and Grama, 2018; Sturm, 2013).

PRESENT TRENDS. EXTENSION OF THE TWO MEGA-RELIGIONS

The less-represented Islam, with 1.6 billion believers covering 23% of the world's population, includes the poorer states but the most demographic explosion, a phenomenon present in all Muslim states. The world's better-represented Christianity, with 2.2 billion believers accounting for over 31% of the world's population, which includes the main economic powers, and most developed regions face a low population fertility down to demographic decline (Gifford, 2005, p. 460-461).

Currently, the main two world religious trends are: replacing European atheism, Indian Hinduism and local religions in the northern half of Africa with Islamic religion, and expanding Christian religion to the detriment of Chinese Confucianism and Taoism and local religions in southern half of Africa. By 2050, India is expected to become the largest Islamic country beyond Indonesia, the Islamic population in Europe will grow from 6% to 10%, while the African Christian population will grow from 25% to 40% and the Christian population in China will grow from 30-60 million to 200 million believers. All these trends are even more pronounced after 2050 (Graziano, 2017).

ISLAMO-CHRISTIANIZATION PLANET BY THE YEAR 2100

If between 1900 and 2000 the Christian and Muslim populations grew on the planet by 6%, reaching over 52% of the world's population, over another 100 years, by 2100, it is estimated that the two mega-religions will grow along with 18 % when they will most likely reach around 70% of the world's population.

Table 1. Evolution of the Christian and Islamic population of the World population,
between 1900 and the 2100

Zann et al., 2000, p. 238)				
Year	The total population of the Terrei (million inhabitants)	Christian population (% of total population)	Islamic population (% of total population)	Christian and Islamic Population (% of the total population)
1900	1.600	560 (34%)	200 (12%)	760 (46%)
1950	2.500	850 (34%)	380 (15%)	1.200 (49%)
2000	6.200	2.100 (33%)	1.160 (18%)	3.200 (52%)
2019	7.700	2.200 (32%)	1.600 (23%)	3.800 (54%)
2050	9.300	3.100-3.300	2.700-3.000	5.800-6.300
		(34-35%)	(29-32%)	(63-67%)
2100	10.000-	3.400-4.300	3.500-4.400	6.900-8.700
	12.000	(34-36%)	(35-37%)	(69-73%)

(Source: Worldometers, 2019; Todd, 1995; The New York Times, 2015; Pew Research Center, 2015; Zahn et al., 2000, p. 238)

Basically, the total population of Christians and Islamists grew by only 6% throughout the 20th century, when scientific leaps were at a dizzying pace, and 18% growth in the 21st century, when humanity's progress is expected to go beyond unimaginable. Another interesting trend will be to overcome the population of Islamic religion of the Christian population around 2070, depending also on the rapidity with which Islam spreads in India and North Africa, and Christianity in China and Southern Africa.

THE BEGINNING OF THE XXIII CENTURY THE GREAT WAR ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN OR MEDITERRANEAN PEACE

Even if they are in a harsh mutual denigration, the two mega-religions share somewhat the same values and the old testament, having both faith in the same divinity, called God or translated Allah in Arabic (Biblia; Coranul). Considering that the current Islamist fanaticism existed in the past and among Christians when imposing sword Christianization in conquered territories similar to the jihadism practiced today by Muslims, but also vice versa, the current democracy, the craving for culture and modernity existing in the Christian world, in the Islamic world in the past, when the interest in books, science, democratic debates and trade has created in the Islamic territories the most imposing cities in the world: Europe (Cordoba), Africa (Cairo, Fes, Kairouan) and Asia (Damascus, Baghdad) (Luraghi, 1971; Pohly and Duran, 2002; OBrien, 2010). Thus, the wellknown Christian freedom and Islamic fanaticism is not old and can always take a new turn, reminding us that cities such as: Dubai, Kuwait, Doha, Ar Riyadh, or Kuala Lumpur that are part of world prosperity, are Islamist.

That is why it is hard to predict if the seizure of the world's population by the two mega-religions will culminate with the First World War, or with the Islamization of a part of Europe and the expansion of the future European Confederation that will encompass all states around the Mediterranean forming the Euro-Arab Union (Eurabia) will lay the basis for a new global trend of mutual tolerance or even the direction of merging the two religions below the common value of faith for the same God.

CONCLUSIONS

Although it seemed hard to predate one or two centuries ago, that with the cessation of colonialism by which Christian or Islamic religion was imposed, and with the impetus of telecommunication, urbanization and interconnection of the planet's population with the help of telephony and the Internet, the two religions would not lose value and even consolidate.

Contrary to all forecasts, Christianity and Islam are growing stronger and broader, rising in line with the scientific advances that have yielded additional evidence to the deity, with a worldwide increase of the two mega-religions by 6% between 1900 and 2000 and an 18% growth forecast between 2000 and 2100, reaching over 200 years, from 46% to 70% of the planet's population, shaping the world in which we are also the world's geopolitics.

REFERENCES

Avram, A. (2009). Mari minuni, mari mistere: 100 de martori și făptuitori de miracole din întreaga lume (Great wonders, great mysteries: 100 witnesses and miracles from all over the world), Editura Allfa, București.

- Brown, C. S. (2009). Istoria Lumii de la Big Bang până în prezent (History of the World from Big Bang to the present), Editura Litera, București.
- Diaconescu, L. (2017). Global Competition Between North and South. Revista Română de Geografie Politică, 19(2), 103-115.
- Diaconescu, L. (2018). Geopolitics of the Oceans: The Demographic Influence in the Separation of Powers. Revista Română de Geografie Politică, 20(2), 75-85.
- Duby, G., (2015). Atlas istoric (Historical Atlas), Editura Corint, București.
- Gifford, C., (2005). Geografia: enciclopedia pentru întreaga familie (Geography: Encyclopedia for the whole family), Editura Teora, București.

Graziano, M. (2018). What is the Geopolitics of Religions?, ResetDoc, Milano.

- Graziano, M. (2017). *Geopolitics of Religions*, The Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS), course, www.geopolitics-geneva.ch., Geneva.
- Herman, G.V., Grama, V. (2018). Geographical aspects of space-time evolution of independent states. *Revista Română de Geografie Politică*, 20(2), 49-56.
- John, F. (2008). India. Ascensiunea unei noi superputeri mondiale (India. The rise of a new world superpower), Editura Litera Internațional, București.
- Keller, W. (2009). *Și totuși Biblia are dreptate (And yet the Bible is right),* Editura Litera Internațional, București.
- Luraghi, R. (1971). Europenii caută Eldorado (Europeans are looking for Eldorado), Editura Politică, București.
- Meinhardt, D., & Schafer, E. (1996). Unsere Welt: Der Atlas fur die ganze Familie, RV Verlag (World: The Atlas for the whole family, RV Verlag), Stuttgart, Germany.
- OBrien C., (2010). Declinul imperiilor. Povestea marilor imperii antice (The decline of empires. The story of the great ancient empires), Editura Curtea Veche, București.
- Pohly, M., & Duran, K. (2002). Osama bin Laden și terorismul internațional (Osama bin Laden and international terrorism), Editura Axel Springer, București.
- Roy, O. (2001). Noua Asie Centrală sau Fabricarea națiunilor (New Central Asia or Manufacturing of Nations), Editura Dacia, Cluj-Napoca.
- Sturm, T. (2013). The future of religious geopolitics: towards a research and theory agenda. Area, 45(2), 134-140.
- Wright, M. (2009). Lumea în mișcare (The world on the move), Editura Readers Digest, București.
- Zahn, U., Dornbusch, J., Kammer, H.J., Seng, P. (2000). Diercke Weltatlas, Westermann Kartographie, Braunschweig, (Diercke World Atlas, Westermann Cartography, Braunschweig), Germany.
- *** (2008). Biblia, Editura Institutului Biblic și de Misiune Ortodoxă, București.
- *** (2009a). Graal Soft trans. Știință și progres Marea Enciclopedie a Cunoașterii (Science and Progress The Great Encyclopedia of Knowledge), Editura Litera Internațional, București.
- *** (2009b). Graal Soft trans. Societate și economie Marea Enciclopedie a Cunoașterii (Society and Economy The Great Encyclopedia of Knowledge), Editura Litera Internațional, București.
- *** (1912 ediție actualizată). Coranul, Editura Eta, Cluj-Napoca.
- *** (2009). Atlas de Istorie a Lumii (Atlas of World History) / Instituto Geografico de Agostini, Editura Rao, București.
- *** (2007). Bertelsmann Universalatlas / Lexikon Institut, Wissen Media Verlag GmbH, (Bertelsmann Universal Atlas / Lexicon Institute, Wissen Media Verlag GmbH), Munchen, Germany.
- Woldometers, real time world statistics: www.worldometers.info, last accessed, February, 2019.
- https://assets.pewresearch.org/wpcontent/uploads/sites/11/2015/03/PF_15.04.02_ProjectionsFul lReport.pdf, Pew Research Center (2015). The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2020.
- https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/03/us/raport-sees-religions-growing-and-shifting-in-next-fewdecades.html, The New York Times (2015). Muslims Projected to Outnumber Christians by 2100.
- http://www.wnrf.org/cms/next200.shtml, Todd M.J. (1995). Explore the future of religion: Religious Projections for the Next 200 Years, WNRF.

Submitted: March 07, 2019 Revised: July 12, 2019 Accepted and published online: October 22, 2019