

## Social and religious values to create a peaceful atmosphere in Albania and in this regard, its continuing contribution

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### Abstract

*Human being is created to live in dignity in an appropriate disposition of society. This way of life brings many necessities. Because human beings are different from other living things, they build cities, they get married, they build organizations and they set up various professional organizations. According to their own rules, these organizations have their obligations. All human beings are obliged to comply with it. It's not a surprise if sometimes they can't comply because they are facing serious problems. During 1997 Albania experienced bankers' crisis, the state authority has been shaken in a very serious way. During this period, in certain parts the country suffered the security weakness and the administration has passed into the hands of mafia embodiments. In this study, a comparative study was used to figure out social problems within various social ethnic structure in order to solve existing conflicts in the society. Also, the secondary data were utilized to clarify the whole theme. This study focused on the causes that why some cities didn't experienced social crisis during 1997, the same ethnic structure, and also we are trying to focus on the tolerance between religious and sectarian groups in this country which are an example to the world media that influence the formation of the social and religious values. We suggest that tolerance appears a good option to overcome social problems when there is a conflict within the society.*

**Keywords:** Values, Peace, Crisis, Albania.

### 1. Introduction

The biggest feature that separates man from the other creatures was that it was created as a social being and lives his/her life in society according to certain rules. This is a mandatory situation for the man & woman as being homo-sapience. Because it is not possible to speak about peace in a society where people do not live through complying the rules. In the course of time, this situation has not changed. Even though we had developed societies in terms of technology and richness, but for civilized societies; social respect, peace, and values became more important in order to protect the particular nations. Therefore, the societies are ready to gain these lost values and made great sacrifices in this endeavor.

The last years, many societies in the west encountered serious social problems as the side effects of industrial revolution. Most nations face the main problems such as; immorality, family problems, drugs that have serious impacts on the structure of society, even though protecting groups have been established in some countries after World War II. Despite numerous measures were taken, these problem are growing, and in some states they are reaching worrying situations.

One of the main problems of the 21st century is the provision or failure for providing social atmosphere of peace. Wars, rebellion of the people against the authorities and errors that are made are as old as the history of humankind because of natural part human. The duties to prevent possible problem rest on nations and societies. Especially some of the problems that adversely affect the structure of society arise from the man himself. We must prevent the prevailing and potential factor that is known as "man" has it, and also we should made preventive arrangements accordingly.

As mentioned above, making faults, fault itself and extensive violation of the rules are found in human nature. The most important point is to reduce the maximum of these and to organize activities to deter people in these works. Also we believe that universal human values as well as different forms of life that belong to many societies play a very important role in shaping the consciousness of responsibility, duty and virtue of individuals and also society.

Man was created in such a way that has the ability to do evil and he also tends to do well. It is formed as a result of education received by society and family as well as systematic education that is provided in educational institutions. For this reason, We know that education of generations with the religious and social values is one of the solutions that can

prevent these problems. Because when we confront people who are problematic adults anyway we observe that how they are grown up far away from moral and human values. We take in to account that in the essence of problems, the followings appear as domestic violence, divorce, etc. and also the negligence of spiritual and human values.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the importance and benefit of religious and social values in Albania, it is a state and close in the strategic and geographical position in the Balkans. More than that, it plays a major role in the formation of an atmosphere through peace and dialog.

## 2. Literature Review

Society can be defined as a union with people who collaborate on some common goals. This set of people in fact is a set of binding. Man is programmed to live in society. Man is a social creature. Because companies are congregations gathered around a particular rule. One of the main conditions of living together is rule and regulations and harmony. People have difficulty living in the community because of being created by different natures, dispositions and also in various families.

Because of living by certain rules, societies have formed the culture of living together. We can call the culture of living together as social peace. Peace is one of the main conditions for the formation of a highly relaxed and happy society where its individuals have confidence in each other. The terms of primary cultures are: mutual respect, acceptance of people in the position they are, and being aware of the behavior of individual responsibility, and also respect for rules and laws in order to live in peace. Establishment of social peace is the most important condition for the formation of healthy and balanced societies.

Ergil D.(1998) relates the establishment of healthy relationships with the development of the pitfalls screening, and an understanding of the anthropological and also cultural changes, but not only in political or ideological terms. The most irreplaceable condition of a good-liveable life is being away from wars and strife.

While Seyyar A. (2010) says that if it does not ensure social peace in society then there will be a transformation which brings serious problem in society. But, security of social peace is possible by developing the awareness that is necessary for supporting each other, and also the process of social dialogue and communication.

Kılıç R.(2005) makes it known that in the foundation of coexistence are some important elements. With the foremost is respecting their laws and regulations. On the other hand, the social and religious values are considered important. Social values are those that we call habits, tradition etc.. At the same time, the religious values are related to religious commands and temples of worship. Prohibitions such as "sin", "shame" or "forbidden" are prohibited by religion, morality and jurisprudence as well as they are thought as obstacles that put limits to human freedom. From this aspect, we can say that living in peace and security is possible with the limits that put forward morality, religion and jurisprudence.

Sancaklı S.(2009) has emphasized the place that religious and moral values are available in society. According to him, religious and moral values are very important for the formation of a healthy individual and society. In his viewpoint, religion is the guarantee of living healthy and safely in society. The loss of these values gives way to spiritual decay and destruction of society. Consequently, it also brings its demolition.

For this reason, these values should be given proper importance and should follow policies that protect these values and ensure passage of their posterity. So educational institutions play important roles for the transmission of values to future generations, also the media is important in their transmission to different age groups. In addition to, sins and errors are the main factors of moral decay. The rules of morality are elements that inhibit individual regardless of age. With the loss of these spiritual elements, starts the period of faults and mistakes. (Altıntaş H. 1989)

In Albania, religious and social values serve for the formation of a more peaceful atmosphere. In general, the Balkan and especially Albania is a region that has recently become very delicate at this point. The fight which took place some time ago in Kosovo, that fight is an indication that this region is founded on more delicate balances. In Macedonia, Greece, Italy there considerable amount of Albanian population and besides creating balanced policy on this region, it is essential the preparation of educational programs for citizens to proceed and protect the culture of coexistence. Now in some key points, we will try to analyze religious and social values that have influence in the construction of peace.

## 3. Discussions

1. Galleries, an example for interfaith dialogue activities. Albania is a country where most of the population is Muslim. Furthermore, in different parts of the country people are also Orthodox and Catholic. Despite the fact that the population has the same ethnicity, they practice different religions, as an example for Europe as well as for world-wide. For many centuries, there was no clash in religious aspects. Nowadays even more marriages are available between citizens of different religions. Families are tolerant about the religions of their children's choice. This ensures the continuity of a peaceful atmosphere.

Another value which contributes in the religious peace in Albania are also the religious celebrations. Muslims as well as Christians celebrate these holidays in a brotherly atmosphere. In all cities, the greatest representatives of the state visit the respective representative and congratulate them. For example, in Ramadan when E id-ul-adha starts, the president, prime minister, ministers, ambassadors, etc. they all congratulate the Muslim Community in Albania. In addition, the representatives of other religions act in the same manner by sharing the values of the beautiful state.

2. Cooperation in times of crisis. In 1997, Albania passed through a banking crisis and had rebellion in all cities of the country. At a certain period, in these cities there was not provided state authority while the direction of the city was taken by the militant groups. One of these cities is Shkodra. In this city Muslims live with the Christians. In this difficult time, there was widespread news which upset both the Muslims and the Christians.

According to news, there was a rumor that Muslims would burn Catholic church and the Christians would burn the mosque. Even the banking crisis had reached its peaks. This statement shocked the residents of Shkodra. But, thanks to the tolerant atmosphere of living together in Albania for centuries, it became clear that the goal was to enter the conflict between Christians and Muslims. Therefore Muslims went to defend the church while the Christians were going to defend the mosque. In this way the problem was solved and it was such a solution that changed the progress of history. Albanians even in the biggest crises, have shown tolerance to protect other values besides their values.

3. Acting according to the values in times of crisis. As already stated above, Albania had experienced a crisis in 1997 where the direction of the city was taken by various illegal groups and events were not pleasant. The most important point of this topic is that while in some cities many events were occurring in the religious aspects in some other such events were superficial. In cities where these events were numerous people came and were collected from different locations. In countries where values such as kingship, neighborhood, friendship, and society had greater importance, these problems occurred less, while in other cities where this values had little importance, these negative phenomena were encountered more. For example, While in a small town like Cerrik, there were policeman killed, in a town like Kavaja where nothing happened like this.

4. Example about Neighborly Relations: Albania has been an example to the world in terms of neighborly relations. Albanian Muslims and Christians live in the same neighborhood, in the same street together; even marriages with members of these religions are founded. This way of life has also created its own challenges and requirements. But with these requirements exceed Albanian people has exceeded the sample application in the world. In Albania there are no separate living areas for Muslims and Christians.

People from different religions live in peace together in the same floor, in the same building and in the same neighborhood. Individuals' behavior has contributed significantly this revealed atmosphere of peace. I would like to give an example of this behavior. There are of course some responsibility neighborly relations. Visits on special occasions made at each other are some of them. Sensitive point here, which is forbidden for Muslims to defeat Christians, is the use of pork. Christians are aware of this situation and they use to have different pots and pans in their homes. When Christians cook something for Muslims they use these pots and pans. Even in the 90s in Shkoder was organized a meal for Muslims in the village but they couldn't find other meat except of pork meat, so they bought the meat from other villages. Such a sensitive thought among Muslims and Christians can be an example to the world and this has led to an atmosphere of peace. Even a simple pot or pan in creating the social order of society is seriously effectible.

5. Respect for Religious Values: In the early 1990s, after the end of communism, Muslims and Christians have helped each other to organize ancestral graves. On the other hand, after the end of communism they used to participate at each others special days, Friday and Sunday worship will be an example to the world and an image of peace in the religion.

#### **4. Conclusions and findings**

Peace and tranquility are among the key needs of the societies. Providing such an atmosphere depends on individual basis and on the sacrifices of their worldview. Societies that have a higher outlooks on values to ensure peace and tranquility

make great sacrifices. In times of crisis these features have influence and a double importance. Societies that pay attention to values and that tend to respect them in difficult times, find easier to solve even the most difficult problems. For this reason, in the name of the values that run these societies, there should be made the appropriate programs in the institutions of formal and informal education in order to edify due values for the protection of society in difficult situations.

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