

ABSTRACTS

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INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS FACTORS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COURSE IN UKRAINE

The main focus of our study is impact of ethnic and religious distinction, as well as of industrial and economic factors on Ukraine's European integration course.

The objective of this work is to analyze impact of religious factors on European progress of Ukraine and to find ways to consolidate Ukrainians. When considering this issue, it is significant to note that the Orthodox Church has been and remains the leading denomination in the regions of Ukraine having the most developed economies. Taking this into account, the desire for European integration should be consistent to the need of the society consolidation and preserving the state integrity. It is obvious that religious factor is really important factor which affects the choice of foreign policy orientation of citizens of Ukraine. European integration is supported by the most part of Ukraine, but not by all, which is justified economically (Ukraine's goods turnover with EU and Russia are approximately equal). It means that in terms of economic interests, and in terms of maintaining social harmony, it is necessary to seek a compromise. Therefore, Ukraine Orthodox Church sees European integration in communication between Slavic Orthodox and Western civilizations within Europe. Steps towards European integration marked the beginning of big European way. However, our political elite have yet to show greater will to change. European integration, among other support resources, requires assistance and involvement of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Thus, mutual influence of religious and economic factors on European integration should be considered as a multi-level and multi-effort process.