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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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RELIGION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS OF THE MODERN WORLD

(ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, 6–7 September 2024

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

FORUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES
OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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The Forum for Religious Issues and Centre for Sociological and Anthropological Research of the Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade in co-organization with the Center for Empirical Research of Religion, Novi Sad.

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**RELIGIONS AND
CONFESSIONS IN THE
CURRENT MIDDLE
EASTERN AND EUROPEAN
GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS**

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DOES RELIGION MATTER IN GEOPOLITICS? A FUSED PERSPECTIVE TO CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS*

To contribute studies of the nature and tendencies of contemporary violent conflicts, the authors turn attention to the linkages between religion and critical geopolitics. Classical geopolitical thought is based on rational, materialistic and state-centred thinking and explains international relations in terms of territorial aspirations and geographical positions of states, considering them as secular actors. Classical and neoclassical geopolitics neglect culture, religion, and values as factors in international relations, although geopolitical studies show that territorial aspirations of states include tendencies to influence culture, religion and ideology of population in targeted countries.

On the other hand, critical geopolitics pays attention to the linkage between religion and geopolitics, particularly in efforts to understand and explain contemporary violent conflicts. The first part of the article presents new terms that have emerged in the theory, such as 'religious geopolitics', 'geopolitics of religion' and 'religeopolitics'. An overview of the literature in this field indicates rising interests of authors to contribute to this approach. Some methodological and analytical challenges are also set out. The third part of the article provides examples of 'religious geopolitics' approaches to contemporary conflicts and on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The authors conclude that religion is to be considered in the daily landscape of international relations in order to shed more light on international conflicts.

Key words: geopolitics of religion, critical geopolitics, international relations, religion, international conflicts

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