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values, identities, and politics



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Dr. Mirko Blagojević,
Veljko Košević,
Đurđica Stanković

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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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RELIGION AND CAPITALISM IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY: VALUES, IDENTITIES, AND POLITICS

(ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, 4–5 September 2026

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS*

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OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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**RELIGION, ECONOMY,
AND CONCEPTS OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Marijana Maksimović

Institute of Social Sciences
Belgrade, Serbia

RELIGION AND ECONOMICS: RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN THE TIME OF CAPITALISM

The interpretation of religion in the context of the economy points to the conclusion that religion is an older phenomenon than the phenomena of capital and capitalism. Although religion is separated from the state in most countries, it is not separated from the ways of behavior and doing business. Many religious beliefs influence how people treat money: whether with rationality (Protestantism) or frugality (Zen Buddhism). So even though capitalism is considered a secularized social system, religion still exists in it. Many scientists wrote about it, the most famous being Max Weber. In any case, the main message is taking responsibility for one's own behavior, individual self-awareness, and awareness of kindness and solidarity. In the countries of Western Europe, the rise of religion and the rise of capitalism did not take place at the same time. The rise of religion and its dominance in those countries flourished in the Middle Ages, i.e. feudalism, and the rise of capital naturally occurred in the era of capitalism. The truth is that both sides had the idea of the well-being of the people in mind. In this research paper, the concept of religion and the concept of capital will be discussed, as well as their mutual connection. It is necessary to point out that religion is related to one country or nation. While capital has belonged to everyone since its inception, it appears in all countries. The development of capitalism and capital with the rise of banking and trade, emphasizing work as a means of survival, was an ideal field on which passions would be transformed into rational behavior, i.e. interest. This occurs because the demands of the times have become such that functional knowledge and professionalism, which are subordinated to market behavior and profit, have become necessary. This means that the knowledge that relied only on the teaching of the apostles and religious miracles, was no longer sufficient for everyday life. Furthermore, observing today's development of society and the demands of civilization, the question arises whether capital has become a kind of religion?

At the same time, here one should separate the career commitment to religion, and the religious people's belonging to one confession. Also, it is necessary to give an answer to the question: what about charity in today's societies?

Keywords: religion, beliefs, values, capital, well-being