

The War in Ukraine and the Religious Communities

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Ukraine has become a topic of public discourse due to the current war of aggression. The war has also religious dimensions, especially in the fields of ethics and ecumenism. The theological discourse of the churches has so far mainly been concerned with the historical and political classification of events and the respective involvement of the churches. However, the war also affects the individual religious communities in their self-understanding, behavior, and mutual relationships. One can note how they are both breaking apart and coming together.

This issue of RES aims at deepening the understanding of the religious situation in Ukraine and focusing more on the country's various religious communities and their mutual relations. On the one hand, authors living and researching in Ukraine should be heard and, on the other hand, the focus on Ukraine also has interdisciplinary relevance. Ecumenical and interreligious relations should be critically examined while also highlighting obstacles and potentials for dialogue, reconciliation, and peaceful coexistence. In addition to providing a better understanding of the situation in Ukraine, the volume also aims at elaborating ecumenical and interreligious perspectives for the future.

The following questions are examples of the range of topics:

How has the situation of religious communities changed because of the war and what are their main challenges and tasks (also in the field of pastoral care)?

How does the war influence the mutual relationship of religious communities, their social situation, and their ethical approaches?

What historical and political factors are relevant for the current mutual relations of religious communities? Do theological educational institutions play an important role?

Are there special ecumenical and interreligious initiatives that have ended or started, also in the field of pastoral care, and what are the expectations for the future?

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