The autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church: a new dividing line for Ukraine?

Sergei A. Mudrov

Pages 271-277 | Published online: 08 Nov 2019

https://doi.org/10.1080/25739638.2019.1690752

ABSTRACT

This essay discusses the 2018 path to autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church – the establishment of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. I argue that the move towards autocephaly was dictated primarily by politico-ideological reasons and was accompanied by the rise of confrontation and a lack of cooperation. The majority of Orthodox believers, belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, opposed this process, which made them the subject of intimidation campaigns. Overall, the move towards autocephaly, instead of uniting Ukrainians, has only brought about new dividing lines in Ukraine and has contributed to the split in global Orthodoxy.

KEYWORDS:

Orthodox church
Ukraine
Moscow patriarchate
Ecumenical patriarchate
Kiev patriarchate
References


Additional information

Sergei A. Mudrov

Sergei A. Mudrov is currently Associate Professor at Polotsk State University, Belarus. He holds PhD from the University of Salford, MAs from the Universities of Maastricht and Warwick, and BTh from Minsk Theological Seminary. S.Mudrov is an author of four books and more than 30 articles, published in English, Russian, Polish and Belarusian languages. His most recent books include “Christian Churches in European Integration” (Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 2016) and “Orthodox Church in Europe: from Reykjavik to Tallinn” (Minsk: Medial, 2018).