

Caesaropapism of Constantine the Great and today's reflection

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Abstract

The emperor Constantine has rightly been called the most important emperor of Late Antiquity. His powerful personality laid the foundations of post-classical European civilization; his reign was eventful and highly dramatic. His victory at the Milvian Bridge counts among the most decisive moments in world history, while his legalization and support of Christianity and his foundation of a 'New Rome' at Byzantium rank among the most momentous decisions ever made by a European ruler (Encyclopediae Catholicae, 1911). The king (regnum) and the priest (sacerdotium) have always been the two centers of power and authority in human society and government. Until modern times the most common form of government in the world unified these two powers in one way or another. Caesaropapism is a political system in which the head of the state is also the head of the church and supreme judge in religious matters. The term is most frequently associated with the late Roman, or Byzantine, Empire. The concept of caesaropapism had reflections in daily life, in the political system, religion etc. Many states adopted this political system which was modified later in different form thanks to his power.

Keywords: Caesaropapism, Constantine the Great, reflection, today.

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