

Book Reviews

Emanuel Tăvală, *Der Religionsunterricht im Kontext von Säkularisierung – Der Fall Rumänien*, Felicitas, Stockholm, 2015, 450 p.

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After almost two years of public debates regarding the utility and the legality of religious education in the public education system in Romania, at the beginning of last year Dr. Emanuel Tăvală, assistant professor at the Faculty of Law of “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu published a daring investigation, entitled *Religious Education in the Context of Secularization – The Case of Romania*.

As the author points out in the *Preface*, this volume was prepared to respond to the initiative of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church that proclaimed the year 2016 as “the year of the Religious Education of the Christian Orthodox youth”.

Without insisting on the introductory elements, the author tackles directly the problem set forth in the title religious education, which is considered on three levels, each of them forming up a separate chapter – the first three of this bold analysis: 1. *The History of Christian Religious Education*; 2. *Church, State and Society* respectively 3. *The Legal Situation of Religious Education today*. Each time three models from three countries are presented: Switzerland (especially the German Cantons: Bern, Zurich and Luzern), Germany (throughout its history from the 19th and 20th centuries) and, of course, Romania. In each case, the author insists on pointing out elements that have permeated specific directions according to the political regime and the socio-cultural background of these countries, with a constant emphasis on the situation in Romania.

Thus, the legal aspects involved in religious education in the public education systems of the European Union are developed, and the author points out that the religious element is perhaps the most sensitive for each state and each community. Considered as a social construct and an institutional reality, religion has played a crucial role in shaping the European society. That is why religious education in the public education system is a complicated problem, the complexity of which is also due to the public character

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