



3. ULUSLARARASI
DİNİ ARAŞTIRMALAR VE
KÜRESEL BARIŞ SEMPOZYUMU

3rd INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE

Medeniyet ve Birlikte Yaşama Kültürü
Civilization and Living Together

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FINAL REPORT



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3rd INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND GLOBAL PEACE SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

- The 3rd International Symposium on Religious Studies and Global Peace, titled Civilizations and Living Together, was held in Sevilla, Spain between May 17th-22nd, 2017.
- In the symposium, 72 presentations were made with participation of national and international academicians in a total of 18 sessions including one opening and one plenary session.
- It is well-known in today's world that economic, political, cultural and religion-based conflicts and subsequent migrations resulting from these conflicts have reached unprecedented levels and have affected the entirety of humanity.
- Efforts to settle differences on the basis of equality and peace have become one of the most fundamental challenges of our modern world today. In this symposium, from an interdisciplinary point of view, applicable solution proposals have been offered for aforementioned problems based on the past experience of humankind.
- A pre-requisite for living together would be accomplished if we have and apply a philosophy that respects the identities of everyone and takes their fundamental rights and freedoms into account.
- Many regulations concerning coexistence within modern legal systems draw attention. However, it is unlikely that the prevailing legal arrangements that prioritize human mind will be able to ensure co-existence single-handedly, independent of moral and religious rules. It is not possible for the European Union which is established based only on legislation, to maintain itself with these laws. For this reason, in addition to rules of law, co-existence should be carried out in accordance with other rules of social order including religion, morality, customs and etiquette.
- In the conception of Islamic thought, the essence is "truth". It has viewed "truth" as a reality without alienating those who exist outside of the bounds of the truth and has not ignored them.
- The concepts of "people of the book", "zhimmi" and "muste'men" in Islamic law have been instrumental in putting this understanding into practice. Thus, diversity and pluralism have become a part of social life.
- In regions where Islamic law was administered, religions besides Islam also have been granted a legal status in order to ensure their basic rights and freedoms. The best examples of this can be seen clearly in the Medina Convention in the first period of Islam and in later experiences of Andalusian, Sicilian and Ottoman experience.
- The example of the Ottoman Empire presents one of the best practices of living together in history: many different religions, languages and cultures in North Africa, Europe and Anatolia were allowed to preserve themselves and were not forced to assimilate. In contrast, history has witnessed how the colonization changed the cultures and languages of these communities within a short time in the countries occupied by many Western European countries. On the other hand, positive examples also have been witnessed in the West as well. For example, while the Andalusian tragedy was taking place, Sicily was another experience of how mutual benefits can emerge once the importance of the other is realized.
- Throughout history, coexistence has also been influential in the fields of culture and art which in result also laid the foundation for the emergence of high-quality art works in an aesthetic sense, particularly in places of worship.
- As a conclusion, while there is a concern nowadays about rise of Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism in the Western world and assimilation policies resulting from this fear, on the other hand, there is also concern that radical movements in the Islamic world have mutually triggered each other and seriously threatened the possibility of coexistence. In this context, the reconstruction of civilization of humankind in the light of positive and negative experiences of the past is essential. In this symposium, a modest contribution has been made to the construction process.

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