

Abstract

The bachelor thesis *The Policy of Pope Benedict XVI towards the Arab-Muslim Civilization* focuses on how the pope Benedict XVI referred to Arab-Muslim civilization, how he cultivated the interreligious dialogue between Christianity and Islam, affecting to some extent the arrangement of relations within the international community, particularly between Europe and the Middle East. Although Muslims live on all continents (and thus they are rather diverse group in terms of nationality and ethnicity), the Arab region still belongs to the traditional cultural center of the Islamic religion. That is why the thesis examines pope's policy towards Arab-Muslim civilization, mainly presented through his speeches, interviews or symbolic gestures and rooted in Christian (particularly Catholic) understanding of the world and of a human destiny in it. The lecture of Benedict XVI delivered in September 2006 at the University of Regensburg that provoked some critical reactions towards the pope in the Muslim world, proved the necessity of deepening interreligious and intercultural dialogue with Islam. In the following years of Benedict's pontificate, Vatican actively participated in the development of mutual understanding, tolerance and respect. Benedict's relation and policy towards the Arab-Muslim civilization were very warm, encouraging peaceful coexistence, awareness of certain common moral values and active participation in establishing a social order respecting dignity of each person. In addition to the Regensburg lecture, the other important aspects of the papal policy towards the Arab-Muslim civilization seem to be Benedict's apostolic journeys to Turkey, the Holy Land and Lebanon.

Keywords

Benedict XVI – Christianity – Catholic Church – Islam – Policy – Arab-Muslim Civilization – Interreligious Dialogue