

The Muslim-Christian Dialogue after „The Regensburg Moment”: the Project „A Common Word” (2007)

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Abstract

The present study presents the Christian-Islamic dialogue after the lecture of the pope Benedict XVI in Regensburg, September 2006. The first Islamic protests misunderstood the discourse as well as the Byzantine dialogue (from which the shocking affirmation of Manuel II Palaeologus was taken). However, against the widespread opinion after which the Regensburg discourse has damaged the Christian-Islamic relations massively, this moment was the trigger of an new, open and objective dialogale process which continues till this day: the letter of the 38 Muslim scholars, as a direct answer to the Regensburg lecture, was followed an year later (October 2007) by the document „A Common Word” – a programmatic appeal of 138 Muslim scholars to all Christian leaders for harmonious cooperation and common witness of love. The article discusses these documents as well as the official Catholic and Orthodox answers to it and analyses the issues and the perspectives of the Christian-Islamic dialogue „after Regensburg”.