

Confession and Ethnicity in Early XXth Century Bessarabia
(Abstract)

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The article deals with the ethno-confessional issue in late imperial Bessarabia. The author emphasizes debates on the language of sermon and divine service among Moldovan church activists. It was shown the role of archbishop Seraphim Chichagov in the elaboration of the theory of principle difference between Moldovan and Romanian people, nowadays called “moldovenism”. Some attention was paid to the story of “innochentist movement”, which on the one hand was a result of the policy of russification, but on the other provoked some changes in the attitude towards Romanian language in church, In the final part of the article it was told about the role of religion in the theoretical conceptions of Moldovan secular nationalists.