

Demographic Evolution of Religious Minorities in Bessarabia in the Second Quarter of the Nineteenth Century

(Abstract)

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The material proposed for the attention of specialists and readers, in many ways comes to address the information gap existing up to the present time concerning the evolution of religious communities outside the dominant religion in Bessarabia, but which from our point of view, “said their word” in the historical dynamics of this space. And it is obvious that in this respect the first necessity needed by a researcher of religious issues is the number of different religious representatives and changes over time in positive or negative sense in their development. To elucidate that figures to be as close to the truth in the article were used and compared in terms of both-official sources, data provided by different authors of the time, as well as archival data that we possess at the moment, estimating how as much closely to the reality the situation. At the same time on the basis of existing data it is trying to elucidate issues related to matter such as factors that have determined the more or less intense increase of religious representatives, determining the role played by external factors or natural increase, the percentage share of the heterodox religions in general and of each part of the preferential areas chosen by the religious communities in the process of popular and others that taken together they restore the religious evolution of Bessarabia, at least numerically in the researched time.