



The role interfaith and intercultural dialogue in the contemporary world/ by a group of authors.

عنوان و نام پدیدآور:

Qom: Al-mustafa International Translation and Publication Center, 2017= 1396.

مشخصات نشر:

۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۴۲۹-۱۹۶-۵

شابک:

وضعیت فهرست نویسی: فیبا

یادداشت: انگلیسی.

عنوان به فارسی: نقش گفتگوی بین دینی و بین فرهنگی در جهان معاصر.

یادداشت: رول...

موضوع: دین و فرهنگ

موضوع: Religion and culture

موضوع: گفتمان دینی

موضوع: Religious discoursesx

موضوع: ادیان -- روابط

موضوع: Religions -- Relations

موضوع: ارتباط میان فرهنگی

موضوع: Intercultural communication

شناسه افزوده: جامعة المصطفیٰ ﷺ العالمية. مرکز بین المللی ترجمه و نشر المصطفیٰ ﷺ

Almustafa International University/Almustafa International Translation and

Publication center

شناسه افزوده:

رده بندی کنگره: ۱۳۹۶ / ۴۹۹ / ف / ۵ / BL۶۵

رده بندی دیویی: ۲۰۱/۷

شماره کتابشناسی ملی: ۴۷۵۳۸۷۷

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center Translation Center

THE ROLE OF INTERFAITH AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**Editors:** Nicolae Achimescu and Mohsen Malek Afzali**Year of publication:** 1438AH/ 1396 Sh/ 2017**Publisher:** Al-Mustafa International Translation and Publication Center**Printing:** Narenjestan, Tehran**Print-run:** 300**ISBN:** 978-600-429-196-5

نقش گفتگویی بین دینی و بین فرهنگی در جهان معاصر

ناظر علمی: نیکولا آچسیمیکو و محسن ملک‌افزالی

چاپ اول: ۱۳۹۶ ش / ۱۴۳۸ ق / ۲۰۱۷ م

● چاپ: نارنجستان ● قیمت: ۱۴۵۰۰۰ ریال ● شمارگان: ۳۰۰

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of all for finalization of this book

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**THE ROLE OF INTERFAITH AND
INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE
IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

**Nicolae Achimescu
Mohsen Malek Afzali**



**Al-Mustafa International
Translation and Publication Center**

Publisher,s Forword

To begin and execute a research is like walking in the path of development and evolution. When the seeds of the “questions” are planted, in the soil of the mind of the researcher, this phase initiates, and its end is culminated when the result and the outcome of knowledge and wisdom is gained.

Evidently, this end is a new chapter in itself, for growth, and announces beforehand this good news to humans. For the result of all those mental efforts will not only bring the blooming and flowering of talent and all kinds of Blessings to humans, but it also makes the mind of the researcher to ponder and shape new, more questions.

This will produce a great collection of growing plants and flowers for the seeking mind... Those “questions” are in fact, the seeds, which according to the necessities of Time and the strength of the researchers will grow and bloom by themselves. They will make Culture and Civilization to move forward.

In like manner, the increasing rate of transferring oneself from one place to another place and the decrease of the distances will make those seeds travel miles and miles, to faraway places, in order to install them inside the curious mind of other seekers. This will bring an amazing diversity and a novelty for another civilization...

It is true then, that the presence of knowledge and a good, capable management will help this project to develop itself and one has to admit indeed, that it has always played an important role...

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center, because of its global mission, and its special position among the Religious Schools and the colorful human diversity that it has developed inside itself, sees it as a moral duty to procure all the appropriate conditions for any research works, and takes its role in this matter, most seriously. To procure all kinds of necessary grounds, with an excellent management of all the existing possibilities and talents, and to care and protect all its researchers in religious fields; these are the most crucial responsibilities of the Department of Research in this International center.

We highly hope that by being attentive to all these autonomous scientific movements, and by fortifying all the existing motives, we shall be able to witness the blooming of the Religious Culture in every part of this wide world!

**Al-Mustafa International
Publication and Translation Center**

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Foreword

“The efforts of achieving any kind of dialogue is inscribed in the spirit of both Christian and Islamic authentic traditions. This is because to be in dialogue means to be an integral part of the continuous work of God in the middle of our fellow creatures, irrespective of their beliefs. Assuming this responsibility means to be in a graceful spiritual state, a special mood, an attitude of love and respect towards those who do not live and think like you”.

Nicolae Achimescu

Foreword

In the name of God

We live in a time and circumstances that violence and terror, wars and insecurity are dominant in some parts of the world. Unfortunately, some of the violent groups attribute themselves to religions. Intestinally or unintentionally, they draw a black picture of Islam in the mind of people specially the youth. On the other hand, the secular western system tries its best to isolate religion or uproot the ideology of spirituality based on religion. The outcome is the immoral shape of the life of man and change in the lifestyle. On the other side, during the history the unawareness of the followers of religions about other religions has caused ascribing inaccurate ideas to each other.

Now that the followers of all Abrahamic religions regardless of their Books, Traditions and ideologies face some common threats, it is upon religious and academic centers to establish ways of communication to have a better understanding of each other and seek for the best solutions for the common problems.

We believe that all prophets had the same goal of leading people towards salvation, morality, spirituality and justice. We hold that academic centers always have had an important role in providing the way of a comprehensive understanding and removing the wrong pictures of the other religions. Today this necessity is at its peak.

We know that for more many years that the western academia are familiar with Islam, they have ignored Shi'ism. A denomination which is based on rationality, spirituality and love of people who are the best obedient of God. Now Qom as the most important academic

center of Shi‘ism and Al-Mustafa International University as one of the most important religious centers in the world has taken the first steps. In this regard, the *Al-Hikmah* Institute of Al-Mustafa International University, had the pleasure of hosting the third round of dialogue between Shi‘a Islam and Orthodox Christianity. Our respectable guests leading by my dear friend rev. professor Nicolae Achimescu and my Iranian colleagues presented their articles in three days of talks that the result is what you can see in this volume.

I hope and pray that God the Merciful help us in continuing our common mission of dialogue and exchange of ideas. He may grant us, and all who try in the path of spreading the message of morality and spirituality, his blessing and bounties. He may make our Romanian friends and us successful in discovering and spreading the message of all prophets.

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May 18, 2017 Qom, Iran
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