

Minoranze linguistiche e principi religiosi nell'Islam

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Abstract

Linguistic minorities and religious principles according to Islam

This article examines how the cultural and religious tradition of Islam has considered the concept of minority and what attention the Islamic tradition has devoted to the topic of linguistic minorities. First of all, starting from historical considerations about the Dhimmī and the Ottoman Millets, the paper analyses the issue of minorities and how the perception of the minority phenomenon have been developed over time. Secondly, two theoretical foundations will be taken into account: the pan-Islamic ideology and the pan-Arab ideology; religious and linguistic principles of belonging to the community derive from those two ideologies. Both the historical and the ideological perspective have enormously influenced the perception of the minority phenomenon and in particular of the linguistic minorities in the Islamic world.

Keywords: linguistic minorities; Islam; minority; Pan-Islamism; Pan-Arabism.