



Religious Education In A Comparative Perspective:  
Kazakhstan's Searching  
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Abstract

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Together with the achievement of political independence, and the ensuing spiritual, more specifically, Islamic awakening in the Republic of Kazakhstan has experienced a revival of Islamic education, which from the beginning of 90-ies of XX century gradually became widespread. In the early years of building a new society educational institutions that have assumed the responsibility for the mission of spreading religious education, appeared without any system, each of them carried out the educational process independently from each other, according to their program, plans, visions and facilities. Due to the lack of any central regulatory authority, to coordinate the preparation of the much needed skilled professionals specialists in Islam, there was no unified model curriculum in this area. Activity of new educational institutions was stripped on the one hand of the technical and methodological support from the government, on the other hand there was no control from the Ministry. Since 2011 religious education in Kazakhstan has been injected under state control. To strengthen its presence in the training of imams and teachers of Islamic religious institutions the Ministry of education and science decided to open a new specialty and allocate additional state grants to future imams. Thus, the state attempts to create an alternative to foreign religious education and to prepare qualified personnel. However, there is no well-designed and formally approved concept of religious education today in Kazakhstan. Over the years, government organizations are developing concepts of educational policy in general, avoiding the delicate area of religious education, although the educational structure and curricula for training religious scholars and religious figures are available. A project to introduce the subject "Fundamentals of Religious Studies" is implementing in public schools. Thus, the process has begun.

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