



# Ethnophyletism?



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“Ethnophyletism is discrimination,  
the exclusion of the other.  
Not pierogi, gyro, & dance troupes”

# Ethnophyletism

Ethnophyletism is ethnic/racial discrimination.

**Discrimination**  
Discrimination is the  
prejudicial treatment act  
Discrimination against  
disallowing one from  
recognized as empl  
... discrimination

Ethnophyletism is NOT finding “delight” in an inherited ethnic identity, whether you’re a proud Serbian, Albanian, Ukrainian, Greek American...



It has become trendy to call people celebrating their culture as ethno-phyletists. Especially on the Orthodox blogosphere.

Simple ignorance, or intentionally pernicious propaganda?

The Holy and Great Orthodox Synod in Constantinople in September 1872 was held to qualify “ethnophyletism”-“racial discrimination,” which was condemned as a modern ecclesial heresy.

Archimandrite Grigorios says

“The Ecclesiological Heresy first appeared in the heart of the Orthodox Church in 1870, with the arbitrary establishment of the Bulgarian Exarchate in Constantinople, according to which the Church is organized not on a territorial basis, but rather on a racial, national, or -to be more precise-culturalistic one, such that, in a way of co-territoriality, two or more Ecclesial entities and Ecclesiastical jurisdictions can co-exist in the same territory.”

1872 Constantinopolitan Synod declared:



“We renounce, censure and condemn phyletism, that is racial discrimination, ethnic feuds, hatreds and dissensions within the Church of Christ, as contrary to the teaching of the Gospel and the holy canons of our blessed fathers which "support the holy Church and the entire Christian world, embellish it and lead it to divine godliness.”

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has never claimed jurisdiction over an ethnic nationality. It has always maintained the nurturing protection and care of the enslaved Orthodox peoples “The Great Nation.”

The Ecumenical Patriarchate’s principal priority was the Orthodox faith, but she also preserved the Christian conscience of the Balkans and Middle East. Orthodoxy does not suppress cultural identities traits; it incorporates them by harmonious means into the populace, constituting the human side of the “body of the Church” (ἄνθρωπινὴν πλευράν τοῦ θεανθρωπίνου σώματος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας). For example, the Great School of the Nation was founded in 1454 immediately after the fall of the civil Roman Empire in Constantinople for all Christians.





## The Great Nation

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has always maintained the nurturing protection and care of the enslaved Orthodox peoples. The First Throne has always preserved the Christian conscience and cultural identity of the Balkans and Middle East.

The Churches encompassed under the “Great Nation” often referred to by the Ecumenical Patriarchate included modern-day Churches of: Constantinople, Albania, Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece, Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria.

Constantinople’s conviction is canonical: Orthodox Christians are under the omophorion of the local bishop.

Greeks, Serbs, Romanians... living in Russia are under the Moscow Patriarchate. All Orthodox living in Syria or Lebanon are under the Patriarchate of Antioch...

Rather uncomplicated for nearly all.



Whereas, the Moscow Patriarchate claims jurisdiction on the basis of national ethnicity. Patriarch Cyril establishes churches, to serve Russian expatriates. He claims jurisdiction over Ukrainians, Belorussians, Estonians, Georgians because as he says: they are “Little Russians.” Today the Patriarch Cyril uncanonically dispatches clergy into Turkey, Cyprus, Africa, Korea and other parts of Asia and now threatens the same to Greece and all Africa!

The Ecumenical Patriarchate oversees Orthodox Christians of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities: Greeks, Koreans, Australians, Americans, French, Germans, Mexicans, Guatemalans, etc. Primarily the liturgical Greek language, traditions, and history are part of the identity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, they have never claimed to be a “Church of Greeks” or a “Church for Greeks.”



The Church of Constantinople does not invade other Churches' territories. The Russian propaganda regarding Ukraine are easily refuted by the historical documents presented by Constantinople. Not a single shred of evidence has been produced by Moscow to refute these claims. Slander and innuendo are all the Muscovite Church use to defend their position.





## Why Host a Festival ?

- ~Outreach & Evangelism
- ~Music, Food, Cultures
- ~Ministry Exposure
- ~Memorable Socializing
- ~Enjoy the weather
- ~Fundraising
- ~Community Participation
- ~Church Tours

# CELEBRATE!

## ORTHODOXY



Print T-Shirts  
 “Did You  
 Take the  
 Church Tour?”



*I hope you dance...*



“When the debate is lost,  
slander becomes the tool of the losers.”

-Socrates

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