

**Payda Yu.Yu. Evolution of approaches to regulation of the right to freedom of beliefs and religion in legal science.**

The process of settling the conceptions of freedom of beliefs at the concrete historical stages of its occurrence and formation is analyzed in the article. The first stage of the study is to draw attention to the freedom of beliefs at the time of tribal relations. Great attention is also paid to religious and mythological traditions in Ancient Egypt. The religious and mythological ideology of the ancient society is considered. Separate attention is paid to the formation of Christianity and its ideology and influence on the consciousness of the believer.

It is noted that during the period of bourgeois revolutions, the laws of states were proclaimed "natural", eternal and unchanging, arising from the nature of things, society and morality. The system of Ukrainian law includes norms relating to the freedom of beliefs, religion and convictions both of man and associations of persons.

Ukraine has returned the possibility of independent formation of law due to the transformation of the state system and the restoration of independence. Legal institutions of a totalitarian nature are replaced by democratic equivalents. Existing legal norms are verified on the basis of international legal standards and principles.

The positive sources of Ukrainian religious legislation are defined. With regard to the court decisions as sources of the religious legislation, it should be noted that they do not have such a determinant significance for the Ukrainian legal system, as well as for the European countries as a whole as for the Anglo-Saxon tradition.

An important source of the religious legislation is represented by a comment of the Arbitrage Supreme Court regarding a few questions arisen from the application of the Law on Freedom of Conscience of February 29, 1996 with amendments and additions.

The differences between the current legislation in the field of regulating the right to freedom of beliefs and religion in Ukraine from the recent Soviet acts to modern social relations are determined.

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