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RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AND MIGRATION OF CHRISTIAN POPULATION DURING THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR (2011 – 2019)

(Summary)

The article aims to examine acts of discrimination and violence against Christians in Syria during the Civil war's active phase (2011 – 2019). The article begins with a demographic overview of the Christian population immediately before and during the war, and examines the status of Christians in terms of their relationship with the ruling regime of Bashar al-Assad. The author traces the behavior of Christians towards the warring sides after the beginning of the armed conflict and finally analyzes their migratory behavior. A number of statistical and documentary sources are used as well as first-hand accounts of affected individuals or parties. It is concluded that the growing importance of the religious factor did not allow Christians to maintain a neutral position, and the manifestations of religious discrimination and violence increased with the strengthening of jihadist groups in the circles of the armed opposition. This in turn became a driving factor for migration of Christians mainly towards Syria's neighbouring countries or safer regions inside Syria.

Keywords: Syria, Christians, violence, discrimination, war, migration.

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