

Manuscript 2438

**"War in Ukraine: Religious, Geopolitical and Cultural Dimensions of Value-Worldview Clashes at the Beginning of the 21st Century":
International Theological Conference**

Vladyslav Fulmes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/ree>



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies Commons](#)

“WAR IN UKRAINE: RELIGIOUS, GEOPOLITICAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF VALUE-WORLDVIEW CLASHES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY” : INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

By Vladyslav Fulmes

Vladyslav Fulmes, archpriest, PhD in Historical Sciences, vice-rector for Scientific work of Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, Lutsk, Ukraine. Research interests: History of Orthodox Church in Ukraine; history of Orthodox Church in diaspora; prosopography. E-mail: fulmes777@gmail.com ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1263-9808>

Abstract

On June 15, 2023 Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (Lutsk, Ukraine) held an international theological conference “WAR IN UKRAINE: Religious, Geopolitical and Cultural Dimensions of Value-worldview Clashes at the Beginning of the 21st century”. Brief information about this international scientific conference is given.

Keywords: Ukraine, Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy, conference, war.

Since the beginning of the aggressor's full-scale military invasion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, we have been watching with our own eyes how the russian invaders resort to the most cynical and prohibited by international humanitarian law methods of waging war.

The war made corrections in all spheres of our life, not bypassing scientific and educational activities, because russian military aggression poses a threat not only to the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, but also to academic freedom and scientific integrity.

Like David against Goliath, our Ukrainian people stood against the tyranny of evil and have already won a moral victory. Thanks to their own bravery and the extraordinary support of the democratic countries of the world and all people of good will, our army continue to win victories on the battlefield as well. They free Ukrainian cities and villages from occupation and successfully deter the aggressor's army from re-advancing.

Both the moral victory of Ukraine and our military victories would be impossible without that indomitable spirit, without faith in God's help, in the

ideals of truth and goodness, faith in freedom, without self-sacrificing love for others, which millions of Ukrainians have shown and continue to show. Thanks to our unity and spiritual indomitability, every day we become closer to the victory of truth and to a just peace for Ukraine, for which we continue to fight, each in his own vocation.

Despite the war and the shelling of the energy infrastructure, the lack of light, water, and heating, Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (Luts'k, Ukraine) did not stop its fruitful scientific, publishing and educational activities, but on the contrary, made maximum efforts to continue, despite all the difficulties, to provide continuity of scientific activity and working together towards a common victory.

On June 15, 2023, Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy hosted the international theological scientific conference “WAR in UKRAINE: Religious, Geopolitical and Cultural Dimensions of Value-worldview Clashes of the Beginning of the 21st century”. The scientific event was held online on the ZOOM platform, which was attended by representatives of various educational institutions and scientific institutions in Ukraine and abroad. The conference lasted during the day and consisted of plenary session and two sectional session. During the conference, leading theologians and scientists discussed the following topics: the ideology of the “russkii mir” as a replacement for Orthodox ecclesiology; involvement of the Russian Orthodox Church as a set of instruments of military and political processes; the crisis of existence of local churches in the context of the unity of the Catholic Church; understanding the value of human life in the new global security architecture; a new diversity of religious life in Ukraine: reproduction of the identity of Ukrainian Orthodox Church life; Orthodox diaconia as a manifestation of self-sacrificing love for neighbours in the realities of war; institution of military chaplaincy as a necessity of spiritual guardianship of military personnel; the future of medical chaplaincy in the light of post-military rehabilitation.

The conference began with an opening speech by the Vice-rector for Scientific work Archpriest Vladyslav Fulmes, who familiarized the attendees with the procedure of the conference. Welcome speech to the conference participants were delivered by: Archpriest Volodymyr Vakin – Rector of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy; Metropolitan of Lutsk and Volyn Mykhail (Zinkevych) – Volyn Eparchy of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine chancellor; Professor Nikolaos Dimitriadis – President of CEMES (Center of Ecumenical, Missiological, and Environmental Studies), Professor of World Religions at the American College of Thessaloniki.

The plenary session of the conference lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. and was presented by the following participants: Yurii Chornomorets – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of the National Pedagogical University named after M. P. Drahomanov, Ukrainian theologian, philosopher (The title of the report: “Orthodox Church of Ukraine before the Challenges of War”); Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun – Doctor of Philosophy, PhD, Professor at Loyola-Marymount University, Professor at the Stockholm School of Theology (The title of the report: “Evolution of the «Russian World»”); Nikolaos Asproulis – PhD, Deputy Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies (The title of the report: “The Declaration Against the Russki Mir Ideology and the Prophetic Role of Orthodox Theology”); Paul Ladouceur – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor at Trinity College, University of Toronto and Université Laval (The title of the report: “The Status of the Nation in Orthodox Theology”); Constantin Sigov – PhD, Ukrainian philosopher and public figure, director of the Center for European Humanitarian Studies of the National University «Kyiv-Mohyla Academy» and the research and publishing association «Spirit and Letter» (The title of the report: “Justice and «soft power» of communities as factors of liberation from the political religion of the aggressor”). The moderator of the plenary session was Archpriest Vladyslav Fulmes.

After the plenary session, the work of the conference continued in two sectional sessions lasting from 13:15 p.m. to 16:00 p.m. The first sectional session was presented by participants: Eirini Artemi – Post doctorates in philosophy and in societies after crisis, doctorate and master’s in theology, Academic Teacher at the Hellenic Open University (Patra, Greece), Professor of the Israel Institute of Biblical Studies of the Hebrew University (Jerusalem, Israel), Professor of the Theological School of the Orthodox University (Kinshasa, Congo) (The title of the report: “The War and Peace in Christian Theology”); Petros Vassiliadis – Emeritus Professor of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President in Honor of Center of Ecumenical, Missiological and Environmental Studies (CEMES) (The title of the report: “Russkii Mir and the Ecumenical Perspective of Orthodoxy and Greek Catholicism in Ukraine”); archpriest Volodymyr Vakin – PhD, Professor, Rector of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “The Ecumenical Dimension of the Issue of the Division of Orthodoxy in Ukraine”); Oksana Horkusha – PhD, Senior Researcher, Department of Religious Studies, Institute of Philosophy named after H. S. Skovoroda, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “Man as an end or a Means: The Ukrainian World and the «Russian world» as Antagonistic Worldview Maps”); Archpriest Ivan Datsko – Doctor of Theology, President of the Institute Ecumenical Studies Ukrainian Catholic University (The title of the report: “The Position of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church before Russia’s Modern War Against Ukraine”); Anatoly Kolodnyi – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Chief researcher of the Department of Religious Studies of the Institute of Philosophy named after H. S. Skovoroda of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “Pacifism of the Biblical Vision of ways to Establish Peace in the Context of the Russian-Ukrainian war”); Hanna Kulahina-Stadnichenko – PhD, Senior Researcher of the Department of Religious Studies at the Institute of Philosophy named after H.S. Skovoroda of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “Ambivalence of Orthodoxy: Causes and Consequences in Condition Military

Invasion of Russia in Ukraine”); Mykola Kuharuk – student of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “The Influence of the «Russian Peace» as a Catalyst for War and the Replacement of Orthodox Ecclesiology”); priest Ruslan Levochko – student of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Reflection of the theological concepts of war and peace in the work of Saint Nicholas of Serbia «War and the Bible»: reflections within the framework of modernity”); archpriest Vasyl Lozovytsky – PhD, Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Holy Scripture and Theology of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping in Modern Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Discourse”); Svitlana Loznytsia – PhD, Research associate of the Department of Philosophy, Culture, Ethics and Aesthetics of the Institute of Philosophy named after H. S. Skovoroda of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “The Priceless Gift of Human Life and the Ideology of Violence”); deacon Andriy Martynyuk – lecturer of Rivne Theological Seminary (The title of the report: “«Republic of Autocephalous Churches» is an Alternative Ecclesiological Model”); archpriest Andriy Myronyuk – lecturer of the Department of Holy Scripture and Theology of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Pseudo-religiosity as a Sign Postattheistic Era”); Lyudmyla Filipovych – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Head of the Department of Philosophy and History of Religion of the H. S. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “Forced Migration from Ukraine and Problems of Spiritual Care of Refugees”); Hennadii Khrystokin – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of the department of advertising and public relations of the National Aviation University (The title of the report: “The Crisis of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the Symbolic Space Society”); archpriest Andriy Shymanovych – PhD, doctoral student of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies of Mykhailo Drahomanov Ukrainian State University (The title of the report: “Apology of Orthodox Scholasticism: Betrayal of Faith or Revival of a

Neglected Tradition?"); archpriest Mykola Shcherban – PhD in Theology, PhD of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Studies, Yuri Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi (The title of the report: “Anthropological Crisis in Wartime: Theological and Value Dimension”); Petro Yarotsky – Doctor of Philosophy, Professor, Leading Researcher, Department of Religious Studies, H. S. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “The Justification by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Need for a Russian-Ukrainian War with a Large-scale Invasion of the Russian Armed Forces on the Territory of Ukraine”) and other.

The second sectional session was presented by participants: Elżbieta Szczot – Dr Hab., Professor University Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the Catholic University of Lublin Institute of Canon Law, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Jacek Szczot – Dr, University of Management in Konin (The title of the report: “Humanitarian Aid During the War”); Archpriest Heorhii Kovalenko – PhD, Rector of the Open Orthodox University of Saint Sophia the Wisdom (The title of the report: “Non-military Forms of Chaplain Service”); Archpriest Nazar Babiy – lecturer of the Department of Humanities and Practical Disciplines of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Implementation and Development Prospects of Medical Chaplaincy in Ukraine”); Mykhailo Boychak – Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Honored Doctor, Professor of the Department of Military Therapy of the Ukrainian Military Medical Academy, Ivan Goncharenko – PhD, Deputy Head of the Ukrainian Military Medical Academy, Colonel (The title of the report: “The Monasteries of Ukraine-Russia are the First Centers of Domestic Medicine); Lyudmyla Bryn – public organization «Children’s Mission», graduate student State institution of higher education «University of Education Management» of National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “The Role of Public Religious Organizations in Training Specialists to Provide Psychological Assistance to Children”); Svitlana Hanaba – Doctor of philosophy,

Professor of the department of psychology, pedagogy and socio-economic sciences of the National Academy of the State Border Service of Ukraine named after Bohdan Khmelnytskyi (The title of the report: “Faith as a Resource in Coping with Stress and Finding Inner Stability in Wartime”); Roman Dyachuk – student of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “The Therapeutic Mission of the Pastor for the Faithful who Suffered Spiritual and Psychological Trauma During the War”); Oksana Kalishchuk – Doctor of historical sciences, Professor of the Department of History of Ukraine and Archeology of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University (The title of the report: “Practices of Military Chaplaincy: the Experience of Ukraine and the USA”); archpriest Sergey Kyrylyuk – PhD, Associate Professor of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Danylo Halytskyi Lviv National Medical University (The title of the report: “Spiritual and Psychosocial Support During Wartime”); Oleksandr Sagan – Doctor of philosophy, Professor, head of the religious studies department of the Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (The title of the report: “Chaplain Service in Independent Ukraine: to the History of the Issue”); Oleksandr Rozhkov – student of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “«Alienation from the Game» as a Threat to Humanity: Sociological and Theological Analysis”); Archpriest Vladyslav Fulmes – PhD, Associate Professor, Vice-rector for Scientific work of Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Social Service of the Church of Christ During the War”); Archpriest Oleksandr Khoroshko – PhD, Head of the Department of Humanities and Practical Disciplines of the Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy (The title of the report: “Chaplaincy in Medical Institutions: the Experience of Local Autocephalous Churches”); Oleg Shushpannikov – PhD, researcher of the department of organization of scientific research, doctoral student of the department of theology and religious studies of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Philosophy and Educational Policy of Mykhailo Drahomanov Ukrainian State University (The title of the report: “The Institute of

Chaplaincy as a Unifying Factor in the Interaction of Religious Organizations in Modern Ukraine”) and other.

After the completion of the work at the sectional meetings, there was a summary of the work and the closing of the conference. The materials of the conference will be published later in the next collective monograph (<http://vpba.edu.ua/conferences>) of the “Ukrainian Theological Studies” (<https://duh-i-litera.com/bookstore/mfp/2f-ser-ya,ukranski-bogoslovski-studi>) series of the “Spirit and Letter” publishing house.



Addition 1. On the cover – The Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myrlyki in Volnovas. The Church was built in memory of the fallen soldiers of the 51st Separate Mechanized Brigade, who in May 2014 were brutally shot by the Russian occupiers near Volnovakha, in the village of Blagodatne. Money for construction was collected by Lutsk and Volnovakha communities. The divine services in the Church were performed by a graduate of Volyn Orthodox Theological Academy. Today the Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myrlyki in Volnovas has been completely destroyed by the occupiers.