

## New Voices in Greek Orthodox Thought

Untying the Bond between Nation and Religion

Trine Stauning Willert, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Ashgate New Critical Thinking in Religion, Theology and Biblical Studies

'This is a highly important case study on contemporary Orthodox theological trends in Greece. The study at the same time explores, empirically and theoretically, processes of entanglement and disentanglement of religion and nationalism, as well as problems of religious education. Essential reading for scholars of the Greek Orthodox religion and very valuable for sociologists of religion at large.'

Nikos Kokosalakis, Liverpool University, UK

'Modern Greek Orthodoxy is often portrayed as altogether lacking innovative spirit and initiatives, as remaining bound to old traditions and practices, as being nationalistic and as endorsing extreme views. By focusing on selected "new voices" from the current Greek Orthodox thought, this book breaks fresh ground and shows the other side of the coin. It brings to light an ignored or underappreciated rich strand of Greek Orthodox theological reflection on many current issues related to the public role of religion not only in contemporary Greece, but in European societies at large.' Vasilios N. Makrides, University of Erfurt, Germany

Demonstrating that in late modernity, parallel to rising nationalisms, there is a shift towards religious communities becoming the central axis for cultural organization and progressive thinking, this book presents Greece as a case study based on empirical field data from contemporary theology and religious education, and makes a unique contribution to ongoing debates about the public role of religion in contemporary Europe.

Contents: Introduction; From national religion to pure religion: historical and conceptual framework; The bonds between nation and religion: the Orthodox legacy; Untying the bonds: new Orthodox voices on the nation, Europe and globalisation; The Orthodox legacy and education; Teaching religion in the Greek school; The religion class: between a national, European and multicultural awareness; A new era in religious education?; Conclusions; Appendix; References; Index.

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