

Modern Confessional Situation in Tuva

This presentation discusses recent developments in contemporary Tuvan culture, under the heading of religion. Traditionally, Tuva has been considered to be a Shamanist and Buddhist region, where Christianity has also extended, introduced by the Russian population. After the collapse of the USSR, the Tuvans, in common with all the other non-Russian populations of the former Soviet Union, went through a period of radical reaction against Soviet norms. The post-Soviet regime transformed the Tuvan way of life and this transformation involved the changes of many Soviet Tuvan cultural forms, such as religion. As a result of this, many nontraditional beliefs penetrated into Tuva. The majority of these new religious ideas came here from the West and America. This led to a poly-confessional situation and to a new religious balance in the Tuvan society. The presentation focuses on special features of each of the traditional and non-traditional religions. Primary attention is also paid to their influence on the local population. The influence of confessional factors on the political and public life of contemporary Tuva will also be examined.