## Table of Contents

The Author 3

List of Abbreviations 13

Preface 17

General Introduction 19

§1. General Background of the Country 19

§2. Social Facts about Religion 20

§3. Historical Background 21
   I. The Impact of History 21
   II. The Byzantine Period 22
   III. The Rule of the Ottomans 24
   IV. The Modern Greek Period 24
   V. Conclusions 28

Part I. Legal Framework and Sources 29

Chapter 1. The Constitutional Status of Religion 29

Chapter 2. Other Legislation with Regard to Religion 32

Chapter 3. Typology of the System 34
   I. The Community of the Orthodox Churches 34
   II. The Principle of Ethnicities 35
   III. The Canonical Foundations of Ecclesiastical Autocephaly: Autonomy 35
   IV. Doctrinal and Canonical Unity 36
   V. The Internal Organization of Autocephalous Churches: The Synodal System of Administration 36
      A. Generally 36
      B. Presbygenous Patriarchates 37
Table of Contents

C. More Recent Patriarchates 38
D. Autocephalous Churches 38
E. Autonomous Churches 39
VI. The Different Orthodox Ecclesiastical Regimes in the Greek Territory
   A. Generally 39
   B. The Autocephalous Church of Greece 39
   C. The Metropolises of the New Lands 40
   D. The Monastic Polity of Mount Athos 41
   E. The Semi-autonomous Church of Crete 41
   F. The Ecclesiastical Eparchies of the Dodecanese 41

VII. The ‘Statutory Charters’ 42

VIII. Church-State Relations under the Constitution of 1975
   A. Fundamental Characteristics 42
   B. The Issue of the Constitutional Entrenchment of Holy Canons 46
   C. Aspects of State Supervision 48

IX. Sources of Greek Ecclesiastical Law
   A. Categories 49
   B. Matters of Interpretation: The Institution of ‘Ecclesiastical Economy’ (‘Oikonomia’) 50

Part II. Religious Freedom in General 53

Chapter 1. Individual Religious Freedom 53

§1. Constitutional Protection 53

§2. Freedom of Religious Conscience 55
   I. General Aspects 55
   II. Right of Religious Equality 57
   III. Law 3304/2005 and the Greek Ombudsman 61
   IV. Right of Religious Education 61

Chapter 2. Collective Religious Freedom 63

§1. Freedom of Worship 63
   I. General Presuppositions 63
   II. Constitutional Presupposition of ‘Known’ Religion 63
   III. Right to Establish Places of Worship 64
   IV. The Relevant Case-Law of the European Court of Human Rights 66

§2. Limitations to Freedom of Worship and Religious Freedom 69
   I. Public Order and Good Morals 69
   II. Lawful Obligations: Duties towards the State 69

Chapter 3. Organizational Religious Freedom 71
Part III. Legal Status of Religious Communities

Chapter 1. The Formal Status of Religious Communities

§1. THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

I. The Orthodox Church of Greece

A. Central Organization
   1. Synodal Bodies
   2. Central Ecclesiastical Organizations

B. Peripheral Organization
   1. Archdiocese and Metropolises
   2. Metropolitan Council
   3. Parishes and Ecclesiastical Councils
   4. Other Categories of Churches
   5. Vicars
   6. Cantors: Sacristans
   7. Monasteries

C. The Administration
   1. Acquisition and Loss of the Capacity of Church Member
   2. Clergy
   3. Monks
   4. Administrative Power over Persons
   5. Ceremonial Competence

D. Ecclesiastical Justice
   1. Introduction
   2. Substantive Law: Ecclesiastical Offences
   3. Ecclesiastical Punishments
   4. Ecclesiastical Courts
   5. Criticism of Ecclesiastical Procedural Law
   6. Critical Remarks: The Ecclesiastical Justice in Greece, as a Serious Deficit in the Constitutional Relations between State and Orthodox Church

II. The Semi-autonomous Orthodox Church of Crete

A. Statutory Regime

B. Administrative Organization: Provincial Synod

C. Churches and Monasteries

D. Ecclesiastical Justice

III. The Ecclesiastical Provinces (Eparchies) of the Dodecanese

IV. The Monastic State of Mount Athos

A. Historical Developments
   1. Byzantine Period (Ninth Century–1430 AD)
   2. The Period of Ottoman Rule (1430–1912)
   3. Recent Years (1912–Today)

B. Nature and Resources of Mount Athos Law
   1. General Remarks
   2. The Constitutional Protection of the Mount Athos Regime
Table of Contents

3. Charter of Mount Athos 117
4. Regulatory Provisions 117
5. Monastic Rules 117
C. The Administrative System of Mount Athos 118
  1. The Self-Administration of Mount Athos 118
  2. Monastic Authorities 119
  3. Organization and Administration 120
  4. Holy Community 120
  5. Holy Epistasia 121
  6. Extraordinary Synaxes (Assemblies) 121
D. The Exercise of Supervision 121
  1. Governor 121
  2. Ecumenical Patriarchate 122
E. The Law of Persons 122
  1. The Status of Athonite Monks 122
  2. The Canonical Institution of ‘Avaton’ 123
  3. Acquisition and Loss of Greek Citizenship 124
  4. Restrictions in Movement: Prohibition of Proselytism 124
F. Property Law 124
  1. Mount Athos Territory 124
  2. Administration and Management 125
  3. The Property of Athonite Monks 125
  4. Tax and Duty Privileges 126
  5. Cultural Heritage and Intellectual Property 126
G. Administration of Justice on Mount Athos 127
  1. General Remarks 127
  2. Cases of Ordinary Penal Law 127
  3. Cases of Ecclesiastical Penal Law 127
  4. Civil Law Cases 128
  5. Cases of Annulment before the Council of State 128
  6. The Execution of Decisions 129
§2. ‘GENUINE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS’ OR ‘OLD CALENDARISTS’ 129
  I. The Creation and Evolution of the ‘Old Calendarist Issue’ 129
  II. A Legal Approach of the Old Calendarist Issue 130
§3. MUSLIMS 131
§4. PROTESTANTS (EVANGELICALS) 131
§5. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 132
§6. JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES 133
§7. ISRAELITES 133
## Table of Contents

Chapter 2. The Autonomy of Religious Communities 134

Chapter 3. Fundamental Rights and Religious Communities 137

Chapter 4. Contractual Religious Freedom 138

Part IV. International, Transnational, Regional Effects on Religious Communities 139

Chapter 1. International Law Effects on Religious Communities 139

§1. **GENERAL REMARKS** 139

§2. **INTERNATIONAL TEXTS RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM** 139

§3. **EUROPEAN UNION LAW** 142
   - I. European Convention on Human Rights (1950) 142
   - II. The Final Act of Helsinki (1975) 146
   - III. Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000) 147
   - IV. Treaties of Amsterdam (1999) and of Lisbon (2007) 147

Chapter 2. Transnational Law Effects on Religious Communities 149

§1. **MOUNT ATHOS** 149

§2. **MUSLIMS** 149

§3. **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** 150

Chapter 3. Regional Law Effects on Religious Communities 151

Part V. Religion & Politics 153

Chapter 1. Religious Influence in Politics 153

Chapter 2. Political Influence in Religion 156

Chapter 3. Interaction between Religion and State on a Political and Legal Level 159
Table of Contents

Part VI. Labour Law within Religious Communities 161
Chapter 1. Scope of Application of Labour Law 161
Chapter 2. Religious Ministers and Labour Law 162
§1. Orthodox Clergy 162
§2. Muslim Clergymen 165
Chapter 3. Other Church Employees and Labour Law 167

Part VII. Religious Communities and Protection of the Individual 169
Chapter 1. Protection of Privacy 169
Chapter 2. Freedom to Marry 170
Chapter 3. Freedom of Expression 171
Chapter 4. Professional Secrecy 172
Chapter 5. Medical Deontology 173
Chapter 6. Non-discrimination 174
Chapter 7. Penal Law and Religion 175
§1. Proselytism 175
   I. Generally 175
   II. Case Kokkinakis versus Greece (3/1192/348/421-25 May 1993) 176
      A. Facts, Legal Provisions, Court’s Syllogisms and Decision 176
      B. Critical Remarks 179
§2. Criminal Offences against Religious Peace 181

Part VIII. Church Financing 183
Chapter 1. Direct Financing of Religious Communities 185
§1. Constitutional Protection of the Property of Religions 185
Table of Contents

§2. The Legal Status of the Property of the Orthodox Church 185
§3. The Legal Status of Property of Religious Minorities 190
§4. Revenues and Insurance of Clergy and Monks 193
§5. Real Estate as ‘Non-market Goods’: Meaning and Conditions 194
§6. Archaeological Legislation and Church Property 195

Chapter 2. Indirect Financing of Religious Communities 196
§1. Inheritance and Donations Taxes 196
§2. Real Property Tax 197
§3. Real Property Transfer Tax 197
§4. Extraordinary Special Duty on Real Estate with Electric Service 198
§5. Value Added Tax 198
§6. Real Estate Tax 199

Part IX. Education 201

Chapter 1. Religious Education in Public and Private Schools 201
Chapter 2. Religious Schools 204
Chapter 3. Theological Faculties and Religious Universities 206

Part X. Matrimonial and Family Law 207

Chapter 1. Legal Position of Religious Marriage 207
Chapter 2. Legal Position of Religious Family Law 211

Part XI. Religion and Culture 213

Chapter 1. Religion and Art 213
§1. Religious Monuments 213
Table of Contents

§2. RELIGIOUS ART 214

Chapter 2. Religion and Media 215

Chapter 3. Religion, Civil Society and Public Debate 217

Selected Bibliography 221

Index 239