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Baskýn ORAN

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RÉSUMÉS

In cases where the religion of the dominant nation is different than that of the dominated, the religion of the latter contributes to comforting its nationalism or at least its national identity. This is proven by the experience of the Turks in the Balkans. Using the Islamic religion, the Turks, who are by far the most numerous and prosperous Muslim minority in Greece and Bulgaria, have successfully attempted to assimilate the Pomak minority in Greece and, to a certain extent, in Bulgaria. On the other hand the Albanians, by far the most numerous Islamic element in Macedonia and Kosovo, are assimilating the Turks in the former and even more so in the latter by using religious affinities.