

Church-policy and theological evolution of Palestinian Churches in Jerusalem and in the West Bank is the main topic of a thesis entitled „Palestinian Churches after 1967. Evolution in Church Politics and Theology.” Gradual process of politization and nationalization of Palestinian Churches is taken as a chief development leading towards ecumenically shared position denouncing Israeli occupation as unethical, statement commonly expressed by church representatives starting with the first Intifáda. Within context of growing national awareness, local Palestinian theology has emerged in the eighties trying to reflect upon the ongoing political conflict and its impact on churches. Similarly, Palestinian hermeneutics deals with political misuse of Old Testament struggling to create a genuine Palestinian reading of the Bible. To understand the situation of Palestinian churches better, historical and regional context of Great Syria (Bilad ash-Sham) territory is described in two first chapters. The first examines the historical condition of mutual Muslim-Christian and inter-church relations. The second identifies the main socio-political, ecumenical and theological problems of Churches in neighbouring countries of Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Then the three chapters consecrated to church policy, theology and hermeneutics of Palestinian Churches follow. Last chapter offers theological evaluation of the present state of Middle Eastern church administration and mutual inter-church and Muslim-Christian relations.