

## *The Orthodox Church during the end of World War 2*

### **Abstract (up to 350 words):**

The main goal of this study is to describe the state of the Orthodox church towards the end of the World War 2. Recent studies have proven that the Cold War, which is according to a plethora of historians a result of the WW2, was spread to the ecclesiastical field. This was the result of the intervention of the West and mainly that of the USA to the Orthodox ecclesiastical matters and especially to the issues of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. These developments had as a consequence the replacement of the head of the Ecumenical Throne and the election of the pro-American patriarch Athenagoras Spyrou. This study is an attempt to shed some light on the developments that resulted in the involvement of the international politics to the matters of the Orthodox church. In order to achieve that, emphasis will be given on the investigation of the state of the Ecumenical patriarchate but also the state of the Greek Orthodox church and especially on their involvement to the international political affairs.

### **Research innovation and contribution:**

To our knowledge, there are no historical studies that examine and emphasize the role of the Orthodox Church to the political developments of that period. The current study intends to fill this knowledge gap.

### **Sources:**

This study is based on unpublished records of the diplomatic archives of the State Department and the Foreign Office of the USA and Great Britain and of Greek diplomatic and ecclesiastical records. Additionally, this study is based on a plethora of relevant literature.