

Title: "The Relationship of Tutelage and Legitimacy between the Catholic Church and the Peruvian State."

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Description of the Project

This project aims to study the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Peruvian state, basically from the moment of the signing of an international agreement between the Holy See and the Peruvian State (July 10<sup>th</sup> 1980) up until the present. After the signing of this agreement, the Peruvian state went from being a model of total church-state cooperation (union of church and state), through a period of its republican history (since 1821), to a model of church-state cooperation which beyond upon by both parts.

It will be interesting to study the relationship which should exist as regards the church and the state in the first place, the official homage which the president of the Republic (with a few changes in the wording in formula) pays to the church upon his inauguration, and in second place, the presence of the president and the entire cabinet at the national independence day. This is how it has been since July 28<sup>th</sup> 1921 by the auspices of Bartolomé Las Heras, who also celebrated a solemn Mass the day following the national independence day, in the presence of the liberator José de San Martín.

In this context it would be relevant for this project to review what Vatican II had to say "are independent and autonomous, each one in their respective sphere." Both, although they have different functions, are at the social service of all men and women (*Gaudium et spes* 22). Because each one has its own sphere of activity, the church and the state should not be in competition. The church should not exercise political power, but should maintain an adequate dialogue with the state. The state should foster a spirit of collaboration intended to serve the spiritual and moral development of the nation, and for this reason it would not make sense to weaken or to break the collaborative unity. Based on the assumption that our (Peruvian) culture is impregnated with Christian values, it is important to foster discussion and open communication on the religious arguments which exist within the church, as well as in its relationship with the state.

This project will allow us to analyze the religious syncretism developed by the Peruvian people over the years during which the Catholic Church and the Peruvian state engendered traditions, culture, and history. And by doing this we will highlight the special weight which the Catholic Church has in public opinion.

Although Peru since 1980 contemplates a special bond of cooperation between the Catholic Church and the state, which fully recognizes religious liberty, article 67 of the 1979 Constitution also declares that the state may establish links of cooperation with other

religious confessions, whether they be Protestant churches (Lutherans), Adventists, the Jewish community, the orthodox churches among others.<sup>3</sup> It will be important for this

project to review the challenges which this religious diversity supposes. We will analyze the conditions which make religious pluralism possible and for this we will take into

account the juridical norms which presently exist and do not exist, which regulate the

relations of the state with these other religious confessions, including the older religions of the state with these other religious confessions, including the older

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### Methodology

For this project we will have recourse to many different sources and authors who are specialists in the relationship of tutelage and legitimacy between the Catholic Church and the Peruvian state. We will include the proposals of some European authors such as Jürgen

Habermas, who proposes a model of democratic discourse which is

democratically open to the citizens of all confessions. We will analyze to what extent this

thesis and the models of democratic discourse which Habermas proposes are applicable to

Peru.

### Anticipated Results

We expect that this project will be published as an article in an academic journal which specializes in these themes and/or in a magazine or book with a wider dissemination

### Academic Contribution

We hope to contribute to a clarification of the very old relationship between the Catholic Church and the Peruvian state, which has been the subject of much discussion with authors

of the last few decades. This clarification should open the

discussion to the inclusion of norms which will broaden our pluralistic perspective and so contribute to the democratization (or widening) of the public sphere.

### Publications Outlets

Debates en sociología (Journal of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru). I have previously published in this journal

Cuestión de Estado (Journal of the Institute of Dialogue and Proposals). I have also published in this journal before.

Communications prepared for a broadcast non-academic audience.

Rehabilitation).

<sup>1</sup> Decree law Number 23147

<sup>2</sup> *Guidelines of canon number 76* "It is of great importance, especially where there exists a pluralistic society, to have a right concept of relations between the political community and the church & distinguish between the actions Christians, as individuals or in association, perform on their own, as citizens acting according to their Christian conscience, and the actions done in the name of the church, in communion with their pastors. The church, which by reason of its mission and its competence cannot be confused with the political community nor is it tied to any political system, is both a sign and the safeguard of the transcendent character of the human person. The political community and the church are independent and autonomous, each one in their respective spheres. Both however, although under a different mandate, act at the service of the personal and social perfection of man. They will carry out this service with great efficiency for the good of all to the extent that there is a fruitful cooperation between them in the service of the common good in its proper place."

the Catholic Church as an important element in the historical, cultural and moral formation of Peru and its confessions"