

The Gospel according to Xi Jinping

Beijing ordered the "revision" of the sacred texts of all religions because all faiths are harmonized to the word of the communist Party

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A mass in Beijing: only those who belongs to the Church, recognized by the Party may openly practice their faith (Ng Han Guan/ap)

During the cultural Revolution of Mao, the chinese government thought of eradicating religion, the goal now is different and more subtle: "we Need to create a theology with chinese characteristics," said Wang Yang, member of the standing Committee of the Politburo, and responsible for the supervision of faiths recognized by the Party-state. How? "After a full evaluation of the classic religious, you will have to identify the contents do not comply and make the necessary changes and adjustments in the chinese translation," said the mate, Wang in a meeting of leaders of confessional and political summed up by the official agency Xinhua. In practice, it is correct the parties "non-compliant" of the Bible, the Gospels, the Koran, buddhist texts and taoist. The Party that imposes the atheism of its members, recognizes five religious groups: Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity, protestant and catholic, and Islam. But she wants to be sure that the values brought by faiths not illudano the masses: "China is under the control of the communist Party, that is greater than God", preach the officials in the provinces of the empire.

Rewrite the sacred scriptures is set in the countryside of the "sinicization" of the religious movements launched in 2015 by Xi Jinping: the plan is to align the beliefs of the chinese culture and to the absolute authority of the Party. Xi warned about the "values and ideology of the west" (christianity) and from "extremism" (Islam) and ordered to all the faithful of every confession admitted to be above all "patriotic".

Nel symposium directed by a member of the Politburo in November it was agreed to "reinterpret texts that are appropriate to the needs of the new era, to correct, to change the translation", he summed up the Xinhua. The new era is that of Xi Jinping, who is in 2018, has made inscribed in the

Constitution his "Thoughts on socialism with chinese characteristics for a new era". And the president, and the secretary general of the Party now pushes the experts to amend the Bible and the Koran, in fact inspired the writing of the Gospel according to Xi. "The communist Party is a sect and sees tibetan buddhism, christianity, and islam as ideologies rivals, the close in the control betrays the fear that society gets out of hand," he said to the Figaro the historic independent Zhang Lifan.

Xinhua does not explain how it will be put into practice, the correction of the scriptures, but in some of the churches have already been displayed posters reminding the faithful socialist values, from equality to prosperity,harmony and patriotism. And under the word Patriotism has been inserted a passage of St. Peter, entitled "Submission to authority", says Ying Fuk-tsang, a specialist in religion at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The Gospel according to Xi takes shape, while the Vatican and Beijing should extend the agreement on the appointment of bishops, signed in 2018. An agreement that a part of the catholic Church in China has lived as a failure of the Holy see, and a betrayal of the clergy who for decades has accomplished his mission clandestinely, while resisting the repression of the state. He said to the Courier Joseph Zen, cardinal emeritus of Hong Kong: "At the end of June came the coup de grace: with the heading the Holy see, without indicating the department, without signature, was issued pastoral guidance which asks our clergy in China to submit to the Patriotic Church is controlled by the government. Subscribe to, maybe a protest, it advised that text. But it is not in the foot, according to catholic morality, is a document that sneaky". Zen, 87 years old, the old fighter, the anti-communist, claims that the Pope is being manipulated, not informed correctly by those around him.

The decision

The Chinese Communist Party, last November, has decided to tackle the problem of harmonization between what is preached by religions and the ideological reality of the People's Republic. It will therefore be necessary to correct the "non-conforming" parts of the Bible, Gospels, Koran, Buddhist and Taoist texts to bring about a "theology with Chinese characteristics"

The Party, which imposes atheism on its members, recognizes five official religious cults: Buddhism, Taoism, Protestant and Catholic Christianity, and Islam. But he wants to be sure that the values carried by the faiths do not deceive the masses: "China is under the control of the Communist Party, which is bigger than God," officials say.