The Romanian Orthodox Church's Approach to Public Theology: Responding to Contemporary Challenges.

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The Romanian Orthodox Church (ROC) has a long tradition of engagement with social and political issues, reflecting its belief in the inseparable relationship between faith and public life. This paper explores the ROC's approach to public theology and its response to contemporary challenges. Central to the ROC's public theology is the concept of the state as an embodiment of the Christian world, emphasising the interplay between the spiritual and secular spheres. The ROC seeks to address contemporary challenges through theological reflection, pastoral care and active participation in public discourse. The paper also explores how the ROC is liberated from the external political captivity imposed by the state and nation and the internal intellectual captivity resulting from an uncritical, triumphalist and ultimately uncreative engagement with its theological tradition and historical journey.