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Is Islam an Obstacle to Development?

Ideal Patterns of Belief versus Actual Patterns of Behavior,

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This article is a report on a survey research project on the effect of Islamic religious commitment on value orientations, adoption of modern farm methods and productivity, as indicators of development. The main purpose of the project is to test the hypothesis that Islam is an obstacle to development as indicated above. The writer concludes that religious commitment has no statistically significant effect on the above mentioned indicators of development. The research suffers from the problem of operationalizations of religiousness - as the writer himself confesses also the research is confined to Jordan Valley. However, the effort is a welcome step towards an empirical and rational defense of Islamic values against stereotype accusations - particularly in the Western literature - with regard to its conduciveness to development.

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