

The Investigation on the Relationship between Religion and Development: By Focusing on Islam

Authors : Dalal Benboutrif

Abstract : Religion and Development relation is one of the most arguable phrases amongst politicians, philosophers, clerics, scientists, sociologists and even the public. The main objective of this research is to clarify the relations, contrasts and interactions between religion and the major types of development including social, political, economic and scientific developments, by focusing on Islam religion. A review of the literature was performed concerning religion and development relations and conflicts, by focusing on Islam religion and then the unprocessed tips of the review were characterized. Regarding clarification of the key points of the literature, three main sectors were considered in the research. The first sector of the research mainly focused on the philosophical views on religion, which were analyzed by main evaluation of three famous philosophers' ideas: 'Kant', 'Hegel' and 'Weber', and then a critical discussion on Weber's idea about Islam and development was applied. The second sector was specified to 'Religion and Development' and mainly discussed the role of religion in development through poverty reduction, the interconnection of religion, spirituality and social development, religious education effects on social development, and the relation of religion with political development. The third sector was specified to 'Islam and Development' and mainly discussed the Islamic golden age of science, major reasons of today's backwardness (non-development) of most Islamic countries, and Quranic instructions regarding adaptability of Islam with development. The findings of the current research approved the research hypothesis as: 'Religious instructions (included Islam) are not in conflict with development', rather, it could have positive effects mainly on social development and it can pave the way for society to develop. Turkey was considered as a study model, as a successful developed Islamic country demonstrating the non-conflicting relation of Islam and development.

Keywords : development, Islam, philosophy, religion

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