

Impact of Religious Affiliation on Economic Growth in Sub Sahara Africa

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This paper is about the relationship between religious affiliation and economic performance in Sub Sahara Africa. This relationship has become the focus of a growing amount of literature worldwide, but is unique to Sub Sahara Africa because of the widespread poverty and significant changes in religious affiliation over the 20th century. The poverty coincides with slow economic growth in many, but not all, countries in Sub Sahara Africa. Multiple regression analysis is used to test the hypotheses about the impact of religious affiliation on economic growth for a panel set of data of Sub Sahara Africa from 1981-2010. The dataset has various economic growth indicators including the variable of interest, religious affiliation, which is measured in terms of segments of the population practicing Christianity, Islam, or a tribal religion. The regression analysis is used to test the null hypothesis that religious affiliation has no impact on economic performance.