



The Hidden Form of Capital Spiritual Influences in Societal Progress *Edited by Peter L. Berger and Gordon Redding*

Pub Date: October 2011
Binding: Paperback
Price: £25 / \$40
ISBN: 9780857284136

Category: POLITICAL SCIENCE /
History & Theory
BISAC code: POL010000
BIC code: JP

Extent: 242 pages
Size: 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6

Rights Held: World

Illustrations: 20+ figures, tables and images

Description

***The Hidden Form of Capital* provides real-life evidence of the role played by religion in the development of national wealth.**

'A significant and timely contribution to the longstanding debate of the role of religion in economic progress.'
— *Michael A. Witt, Professor of Asian Business and Comparative Management, INSEAD*

The Hidden Form of Capital presents evidence from several parts of the changing world about how the realm of the spirit affects the economy. The idea that societies have economic cultures as well as aesthetic, literary, and artistic cultures is well-embedded in a number of major studies attempting to identify the origins of national wealth and progress. This book provides an original contribution to the debate, by discussing the relationship between religion and the economy not via further theoretical speculation, but through the presentation of analytical evidence from real-life case studies in Europe, Asia, Africa, Russia, and the United States.

There is currently a major re-assessment of assumptions about the foundations of societal progress, as the market rationality model is exposed for its moral weaknesses. The emergence of socio-economics as a scholarly field, as well as the embracing of complexity theory and the societal effect in economic analysis, brings the question of cultural effects to the forefront. This collection of studies offers more practical and tangible evidence, especially unique and useful for its comparative aspect. The book skilfully combines this comparative and descriptive character with an accessible writing style intended for a wide audience.

Readership: Policy makers and interested members of the public; teachers and researchers in development studies and sociology and religion; postgraduate students in religion, development, and sociology.

Contents

Contributors; Preface; Introduction: Spiritual, Social, Human, and Financial Capital; Do Some Religions Do Better than Others?; Spiritual Capital and Economic Development: An Overview; The Possibilities and Limitations of Spiritual Capital in Chinese Societies; How Evangelicalism - Including Pentecostalism - Helps the Poor: The Role of Spiritual Capital; Flying under South Africa's Radar: The Growth and Impact of Pentecostals in a Developing Country; Importing Spiritual Capital: East-West Encounters and Capitalist Cultures in Eastern Europe After 1989; Orthodox Spiritual Capital and Russian Reform; Islam and Spiritual Capital: An Indonesian Case Study; Separating Religious Content from Religious Practice: Loose and Tight Institutions and their Relevance in Economic Evolution

About the Editors

Peter L. Berger has been Director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University for the past twenty years, and has had a formative influence on both the study of sociology and its application to religion.

Gordon Redding is a specialist on the comparison of alternative systems of capitalism and their societal roots; he has spent 24 years at the University of Hong Kong, and now continuing to research on Asia at INSEAD.

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