

Call for Papers, Special series on Storicamente.org on Religion and Capitalism in Africa

Storicamente.org is currently accepting submissions on the theme “Religion and Capitalism in Africa,” to be published in its 2011-2012 issue, ed. by Tekeste Negash, Irma Taddia, Karin Pallaver and Elena Vezzadini.

StoricaMente is a peer-reviewed academic electronic journal of the Department of Historical, Anthropological and Geographical Studies, University of Bologna. The Journal is characterized by a multidisciplinary approach that combines History, Anthropology, Geography and Film Studies. It focuses on scientific papers based on original research, all evaluated by double-blind peer review.

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Call for Papers

The interpretation of the history of Christian missionary activities in Sub-saharan Africa has been permeated with the power/role of religion as a transformative value system. Likewise capitalism, broadly defined as an economic system based on the accumulation and reinvestment of exchangeable resources (commodities and capital), demands the acquisition of an appropriate value system. Like any other ideological apparatus, religion and capitalism have the capacity to create new values or reshape old ones. Max Weber’s study on the impact of religion in the development of the West European capitalist system (dated and highly criticized) still continues to exert some explanatory value.

More than half a century after the end of European colonization, our knowledge about the interrelation between capitalism and religion in Africa is quite sketchy and inadequate. There is a growing literature on how Charismatic Christianity is quickly and dramatically changing the religious landscape of African societies. Similarly, new studies enlighten how Islam, with its extreme diversity and adaptability, is one of the major socio-political forces in a variety of African contexts. However, a comprehensive overview of the impact of religiously oriented political and social activism on African economies has still to be undertaken.

The aim of this special issue of Storicamente called “Religion and Capitalism in Africa” is to study the historical conditions and the modalities in which capitalism is affected by the growth of religious activism in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as the ways in which religion influence and transform African economies and their relations to the global world.

Historical, sociological and anthropological perspectives are welcome. Possible themes are:

- the impact of early missionary activities on African economies;
- religion and capitalism during the colonial period;
- the connections among development agencies, religious activism and politics in Africa after the Cold War;
- the influence of new forms of Islamic banking, Islamic NGOs, etc. on African societies;
- the socio-economic impact of Charismatic Christianity and other forms of Evangelism, as well as Islamic revivalism in contemporary Africa.

Guidelines for submission:

The articles can be submitted in English, French, and Italian. The submission should be between 7000 and 10.000 words. The text should be submitted in .doc

or .rtf formats, and should include a 100-150 words abstract and a short biographical note.

More information about submission, and to submit a paper, please email:

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