

REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION

For Better for Worse

The Role of Religion in Development Cooperation

Can development cooperation be effective without a genuine understanding of religion and religious actors? Considering that religion is an integral part of life for a majority of the world's population, and that sustainable change builds on people's own resources, the obvious answer is no. Religion affects the way people think, act and understand the world they live in, and it permeates the cultures and the fabrics of our societies. At times it is an asset, sometimes it can be a problem. In both cases, a thorough understanding and analysis of world religions is important.

This anthology, published by the SMC in a 2nd revised and expanded edition, offers the reader inspiration and knowledge about religion in development cooperation. It introduces the theme to readers who are unfamiliar with these perspectives, and it aims to bring new knowledge to those already well versed within the field. Whether connected to a secular or faith-based organisation, dealing with development issues within politics or as a civil servant, a student, or simply interested in international development issues - this book is written with you in mind.

The range of contributors includes some of the most experienced academics and practitioners within their respective fields. As religion concerns most areas of life, the chapters cover a wide variety of themes from peace and conflict, to climate change and the right to freedom of religious or beliefs, from the influence the growing Pentecostal-charismatic movement, to masculinity norms and women's rights.

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