

17.588f13 Week 3 Paper Topic

Assume that, as an empirical matter, Islamic countries are less likely to be democracies than other countries that appear to share similar characteristics. (I.e., assume that the sign on “percentage of the population that is Muslim” or “majority Muslim country” is statistically significant and non-trivial in magnitude in an OLS regression, in which the dependent variable is Polity IV score and the control variables include level of economic development, economic inequality, education, geography, etc.) Is Islamic culture responsible for this difference? Which aspects of Islam?

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