



HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

TITLE: The secular idea in the democratic consolidation in the majority Muslim countries

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SUMMARY

How important is the process of secularization, in the consolidation of an open and democratic society? This is from a reflection on the secular idea in thought and political practice in Islam that we intend to answer that question. It will thus examine the implementation of secularism as a political tool for regulating religion in contemporary Senegalese society. The Senegalese public space reflects ambivalent recourse to secularism that leads us to ask the central question: how the Senegalese experience of secularism carries within it contradictions whose loss could testify to the viability of a secular democracy in majority Muslim countries? Our working hypothesis is based on three conditions: (1) break with a Christian-centered secularization; (2) take note of a consensual separation of political and religious orders in Senegal; (3) consider Islam as a potential factor of secularization of society.