



Islamic Scholarship in West Africa: An Exploration of Its History within the Republic of Congo Context, AD

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Abstract

Islamic scholarship in West Africa has a rich history that extends beyond traditional regions such as Senegal and Mali. The Republic of Congo, despite its small Muslim population, has also seen the development of Islamic scholarly traditions over time. The research methodology involves a review of historical documents, including archival records, literature reviews, and interviews with contemporary scholars who specialize in Islamic studies in the Republic of Congo. A notable finding is the presence of at least three locally established madrasas (Islamic schools) that have been operational for over a decade. These institutions offer both religious education and academic courses to students from various backgrounds. The findings suggest that while Islamic scholarship in the Republic of Congo may not be as well-documented or structured as in other parts of West Africa, it is an ongoing and evolving field with potential for future growth. Future research should focus on establishing more robust archives and documentation to better understand the historical development and current state of Islamic scholarship within the Republic of Congo.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Sufism, Oral Tradition, Ethnography, Cultural Heritage, Islamic Law, Manuscript Studies*

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