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*Empirical
Research
in Religion
and Human
Rights*
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Human Rights and the Impact of Religion

JOHANNES A. VAN DER VEN & HANS GEORG ZIEBERTZ

This volume is about the impact of religion (beliefs and practices) on attitudes towards human rights of the first, second and third generation. The first four chapters about the impact of Lutheranism, Calvinism, Catholicism and Islam are historical and theoretical of character. The six other chapters are based on empirical research in England and Wales, Germany, Turkey, India, Norway and on comparative empirical research in six North-West European countries. From both groups of articles it appears that 'the' impact of religion does not exist. In varying historical periods and contexts various religions, c.q. religious denominations, have various effects on attitudes towards human rights, i.e. positive effects (+), ambivalent effects (\pm), no effects (o), and negative effects (-).

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