

Workshop in Valence, May 26, 2023

*The Place and Dynamics of the Middle-Class in the MENA Region*

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# **SOCIAL CLASS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN A NORTH AFRICAN SETTING: ANALYZING THE APPLICATIONS OF RETURNING MIGRANTS FOR API PROJECTS IN TUNISIA**

**Benhafaiedh Abdelwahab & Michalak Laurence**

Fatma Mabrouk (Discussion)



## **General background of the study & Aim of the study**

This article contends that the Ibadhite tradition, a minority division of Sunni Islam located in southeast Tunisia, has a core ethic that favorably values business and that this may be seen in business enterprises created by Tunisian migrants who have returned, notably from the region's southeast.

## **Research methodology used**

Tunisia-HIMS (2021)

Descriptive statistics

## **Results of the study**

There is a strong correlation supporting the hypothesis about the propensity of Ibadites to engage in commerce.

**Table:** Tunisian return migrants and investment by activity and region of residence

	Agriculture	Industry	Construction	Commerce	Restaurants- Cafes	Other Services	TOTAL
Greater Tunis	10.6%	14.9%	8.9%	43.6%	17.0%	4.9%	100%
Northeast	29.6%	0.0%	16.5%	11.3%	5.5%	37.1%	100%
Northwest	1.6%	0.5%	27.8%	12.8%	34.1%	23.2%	100%
Centereast	0.0%	20.7%	24.1%	20.7%	24.9%	9.5%	100%
Centerwest	0.0%	18.6%	13.7%	19.8%	43.8%	4.1%	100%
Southeast	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%
Southwest	5.0%	11.4%	17.4%	22.0%	31.3%	12.9%	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	5.0%	11.4%	17.4%	21.9%	31.3%	12.9%	100%

# Suggestions

## Tunisian return migrants and investment by activity and region of residence

Include sociodemographic variables (age, gender, return migrants or emigrants, Non-migrants...).

Type of commerce and classes?

Is there any religion variable?

Non-migrants are not investing in commerce?

Implementation of effective correlation?

## Contradiction

*There is a strong correlation to support our hypothesis about the propensity of Ibadites to engage in commerce.*

*This does not mean that all the migrants from Djerba or from Medenine Governorship who enter commerce are devout Ibadite.*

I would suggest making more comments regarding the novelty of the research.

In the abstract, a few ideas in this regard should be pointed out. At the end of the study, in the sections focusing on the CONCLUSION: CLASS, RANK AND AN INCIDENT ON A BRIDGE of the study a few ideas in this regard should be pointed out.

*(Egalitarian society based on rank rather than class)*



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Figure IV. 1: Les 5 classes des migrants de retour sur le plan des deux premiers axes



MiReM (2006) & Cassarino (2015).

Capital and North regions: positive and significant  
Center South regions: positive and non significant

- Return of non-innovative young migrants (Class 1)
- Return of women migrants (Class 2)
- Return of young innovative migrants (Class 3)
- Return of Innovative Retired Migrants (Class 4)
- Return of traditional retired migrants (Class 5)

Dear Dr Benhafaiedh Abdelwahab & Dr Michalak Laurence

Congratulations once again for your work and valuable insights reflected in the content of the manuscript, and I hope my comments will be of value to you!

Fatma Mabrouk

[FM Mabrouk@pnu.edu.sa](mailto:FM Mabrouk@pnu.edu.sa)

[mabrouk.fatm@gmail.com](mailto:mabrouk.fatm@gmail.com)