# Article information:

Midwife to science: Organized religion was not the enemy of intellectual progress. - Document - Gale Academic OneFile
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# Article summary:

1. The idea of a fundamental conflict between science and religion is largely a modern invention that does not hold up to the documentary record.

2. Religion acted as a midwife to science in its formative centuries, providing motivation and justification for the study of the natural world.

3. While clashes have occurred, the relationship between science and religion has also been characterized by profitable collaboration, and the notion of a conflict between them persists partly due to pseudohistory.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article Midwife to science: Organized religion was not the enemy of intellectual progress by Nicholas Spencer challenges the common belief that religion and science are antithetical. The author argues that religion acted as a midwife to science, particularly in its formative centuries, and provided a spur to the study of the natural world. While clashes have occurred between science and religion, their relationship has also been characterized by profitable collaboration.

The article provides a detailed historical account of the relationship between science and religion, from proto-scientific inquiry at the twelfth-century cathedral school of Chartres to conflicts over Cartesianism and Darwin's theory of evolution. The author shows that conflicts between science and religion were often about authority rather than whether science contradicted the Scriptures.

However, the article has some potential biases and missing points of consideration. For example, it does not explore counterarguments against the idea that religion acted as a midwife to science. It also does not provide evidence for some claims made, such as when it states that the idea of a fundamental conflict between science and religion is largely a modern invention. Additionally, while the article notes that contests of power and authority have motivated secular assaults on science too, it does not explore this point further or provide examples beyond Stalinist Soviet Union, Maoist China or Nazi Germany.

Overall, while the article provides an interesting historical account of the relationship between science and religion, it could benefit from exploring counterarguments and providing more evidence for some claims made.

# Topics for further research:

* Counterarguments against religion as a midwife to science
* Evidence for the idea of a fundamental conflict between science and religion
* Secular assaults on science beyond Stalinist Soviet Union
* Maoist China or Nazi Germany
* Historical examples of clashes between science and religion
* The role of authority in conflicts between science and religion
* Collaborative efforts between science and religion throughout history

# Report location:

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