



Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: A Comparative Analysis with Special Reference to Cape Verde 2001

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Abstract

Cape Verde is a small island nation in West Africa that has historically operated within regional economic blocs to enhance its economic stability and development. A qualitative approach was employed, analysing existing literature, government documents, and interviews with key stakeholders to understand the dynamics within these blocs. Findings indicate a significant increase in trade volumes between Cape Verde and ECOWAS member states post-ECOWAS integration, contributing up to 20% of the country's export earnings from onwards. The analysis reveals that while regional blocs offer economic opportunities for smaller nations like Cape Verde, they also present challenges related to market competition and regulatory harmonization. Cape Verde should leverage its geographical position within ECOWAS to diversify its export products and negotiate favorable trade agreements. Additionally, enhancing intra-regional cooperation can mitigate the adverse effects of bloc integration.

Keywords: *Cape Verdean, Economic Integration, Regionalism, Sub-Saharan, Developmental States, Mercosur, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa*

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