



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Cameroon: A Qualitative Study

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Abstract

Natural resource extraction in Cameroon has been a contentious issue for decades, with significant economic benefits but also deep social and environmental impacts. The research employs a qualitative methodological approach, utilising semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including government officials, industry representatives, community leaders, and civil society organizations to gather in-depth insights into resource management practices and outcomes. Interview data revealed that while extractive industries have contributed substantially to Cameroon's GDP, they have also led to widespread corruption, displacement of local populations, and environmental degradation. The study identified a clear trend towards increasing government control over resources as a strategy to mitigate these negative impacts. The findings underscore the need for more transparent governance mechanisms and community engagement in resource management policies to balance economic development with social equity and environmental sustainability. Policy recommendations include strengthening anti-corruption measures, enhancing participatory decision-making processes involving local communities, and implementing comprehensive environmental impact assessments before resource exploitation begins.

Keywords: *Cameroonian, political economy, qualitative analysis, resource dependency, governance, social conflict, environmental impact*

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