



Music and Political Expression during Transitions in North Africa and Togo: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

This study examines how music serves as a form of political expression during transitions in North African countries and Togo, focusing on artistic and cultural dimensions. The study employs a comparative analysis approach, utilising qualitative research methods such as interviews with musicians and scholars, document review, and thematic content analysis of musical works from each region. Music in the studied regions often reflects societal changes during transitions. For instance, a significant proportion (60%) of analysed songs criticized government policies or highlighted social inequalities. This study reveals that music plays a crucial role in political discourse and societal transformation, with varied emphases across North African countries and Togo. Further research should explore the impact of these musical expressions on public opinion and policy changes. Policy makers could consider integrating arts into their transition strategies to enhance civic engagement.

Keywords: *North African, Sub-Saharan, Ethnomusicology, Political Economy of Culture, Postcolonial Theory, Cultural Studies, Musicology*

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