



Natural Resource Extraction and Political Economy in Central African Tanzania: A Historical Analysis

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Abstract

Central African Tanzania has experienced significant natural resource extraction, notably in minerals and timber, which have shaped its political economy over decades. The study employs a qualitative approach to review archival materials, government documents, and historical accounts from various stakeholders including local communities, international organizations, and national governments. A notable trend observed is the disproportionate influence of foreign corporations over local governance structures in resource-rich areas, leading to uneven socio-economic development across regions. The findings highlight the complex interplay between natural resources and political power dynamics, underscoring the need for more equitable resource management frameworks that prioritise community benefits. The implementation of a transparent regulatory framework should be prioritised to ensure fair distribution of economic benefits from resource extraction activities.

Keywords: *African geopolitics, Central Africa, Dependency theory, Extractivism, Political economy, Resource curse, State-society relations*

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