



Urban Shadows and Modern Visions: A Literary Analysis of Cape Verde's Urban Spaces in Contemporary African Literature

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Abstract

Cape Verde's urban spaces are a rich tapestry of history, culture, and contemporary challenges, reflecting its unique position as an archipelagic nation with modern aspirations. A literary analysis approach is employed, focusing on recent works that depict Cape Verde's urban environments. The analysis considers linguistic elements, thematic content, and stylistic choices to interpret these narratives. The findings reveal a consistent theme of shadowed urban spaces juxtaposed with utopian visions in the literature, reflecting both historical legacies and modern aspirations for socioeconomic improvement. These literary works contribute significantly to understanding Cape Verdean urban dynamics through nuanced portrayals that highlight the complexities of development amidst socio-economic challenges. Policy makers can benefit from these insights by incorporating a more holistic approach in their planning strategies, recognising the interplay between historical context and contemporary aspirations for sustainable urban development.

Keywords: *Cape Verde, Urbanization, Modernity, Postcolonialism, Decoloniality, Spatial Analysis, Cultural Theory*

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