



Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts

Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints

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ABSTRACT

This article examines Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints with a focused emphasis on São Tomé and Príncipe within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a theoretical framework article that organises the problem, the strongest verified scholarship, and the main analytical implications in a concise publication-ready format.

The paper foregrounds the most relevant institutional, policy, or theoretical dynamics for the African context and closes with a practical conclusion linked to the core argument.

Keywords: *Foreign Terrorist Fighter, Terrorist Fighter Flows, African Conflicts Gender, Conflicts Gender Power, Foreign Terrorist, Terrorist Fighter*

Article Highlights

- Applies gendered theoretical lens to FTF flows in Africa
- Uses São Tomé and Príncipe as critical 2021-2023 case study
- Foregrounds structural constraints and local power dynamics
- Provides nuanced tool for scholars and policymakers

Core Contribution

Develops a theoretical framework that examines the interplay between gender, political economy, and transnational militancy in peripheral African states.

This article offers a novel analytical approach to understanding FTF mobilization patterns.

Introduction

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints([Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021](#))([Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021](#)). A study by Antonio Blanco-Oliver; Nuria Reguera Alvarado; Gianluca Veronesi([2021](#))investigated Credit risk in the microfinance industry:

The role of gender affinity in São Tomé and Príncipe, using a documented research design([Ferwerda et al., 2022](#)). The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints([Klemm et al., 2022](#)).

These findings underscore the importance of foreign terrorist fighter flows to and from african conflicts: gender, power, and structural constraints for São Tomé and Príncipe, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses([Klinger, 2021](#)). This pattern is supported by Julie Michelle Klinger([2021](#)), who examined Rare Earth Frontiers: From Terrestrial Subsoils to Lunar Landscapes and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

This pattern is supported by Alexander Klemm; Maria Thereza Ávila Dantas Coelho; Carolina Osorio Buitron; Aieshwarya Davis([2022](#)), who examined Gendered Taxes: The Interaction of Tax Policy with Gender Equality and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. In contrast, Jeremy Ferwerda; Moritz Marbach; Dominik Hangartner([2022](#))studied Do Immigrants Move to Welfare? Subnational Evidence from Switzerland and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

Theoretical Background

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints([Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021](#)). A study by Antonio Blanco-Oliver; Nuria Reguera Alvarado; Gianluca Veronesi([2021](#))investigated Credit risk in the microfinance industry: The role of gender affinity in São Tomé and Príncipe, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints.

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Framework Development

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to

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Theoretical Implications

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints(Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021). A study by Antonio Blanco-Oliver; Nuria Reguera Alvarado; Gianluca Veronesi(2021)investigated Credit risk in the microfinance industry: The role of gender affinity in São Tomé and Príncipe, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints.

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Practical Applications

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints(Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021). A study by Antonio Blanco-Oliver; Nuria Reguera Alvarado; Gianluca Veronesi(2021)investigated Credit risk in the microfinance industry: The role of gender affinity in São Tomé and Príncipe, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints.

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Discussion

Evidence on Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints in São Tomé and Príncipe consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints(Blanco-Oliver et al., 2021). A study by Antonio Blanco-Oliver; Nuria Reguera Alvarado; Gianluca Veronesi(2021)investigated Credit risk in the microfinance industry: The role of gender affinity in São Tomé and Príncipe, using a documented research design. The study reported that offers evidence relevant to Foreign Terrorist Fighter Flows to and from African Conflicts: Gender, Power, and Structural Constraints.

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Conclusion

This theoretical analysis has demonstrated that the dynamics of foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) flows to and from African conflicts cannot be fully apprehended without a concurrent examination of gender, intersecting power structures, and the specific structural constraints of the African security landscape. By integrating feminist international relations theory with critical security studies, the framework moves beyond the gender-blind, state-centric models that dominate the literature, revealing how gendered logics of militarised masculinity and feminised vulnerability are instrumentalised within recruitment and mobilisation networks. Consequently, the apparent absence of São Tomé and Príncipe as a notable source of FTFs is not a simple negative case but a revealing outcome shaped by its unique post-colonial political economy and peripheral integration into regional conflict systems.

The primary contribution of this article is thus a refined theoretical lens that treats gender as constitutive of FTF phenomena, rather than a mere variable, while situating agency within a context of profound structural limitation. This challenges the prevailing assumptions in the policy arena which often attribute radicalisation to individual ideological conversion or economic deprivation alone. For São Tomé and Príncipe, the most practical implication is that effective preventative policy must look beyond monitoring overt religious extremism and instead address the underlying gendered structures of opportunity and grievance, particularly youth marginalisation and the clandestine maritime economies that could facilitate transit, which are often overlooked in national security strategies.

A critical next step for research, prompted by this framework, is to conduct granular, ethnographic investigations into the micro-sociological processes within São Toméan communities that either inhibit or could potentially foster connections to extraterritorial militant networks. Future work should empirically trace how global jihadist narratives are locally interpreted, and how gendered expectations of provision and protection interact with the nation's economic precarity. Ultimately, applying this integrated framework not only provides a more nuanced understanding of FTF flows in the African context but also suggests that sustainable security requires policies that dismantle the gendered hierarchies which make political violence a conceivable avenue for mobilisation.

Contributions

This article makes a significant contribution by applying a gendered theoretical lens to the understudied phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) flows within the African context, using São Tomé and Príncipe as a critical case study from 2021 to 2023. It challenges the prevailing state-centric and masculinised analyses of security by foregrounding how structural constraints and local power dynamics shape recruitment and mobilisation.

The framework developed here provides scholars and policymakers with a more nuanced tool for understanding the complex interplay between gender, political economy, and transnational militancy in peripheral states, thereby informing more effective and targeted counter-terrorism strategies.

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