



Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa

A Feminist Political Economy Approach

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ABSTRACT

This article examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach with a focused emphasis on Republic of Congo within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a qualitative study 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: *Feminist Political Economy, Political Economy Approach, Digital Authoritarianism, Internet Shutdowns, Feminist Political, Political Economy*

Article Highlights

- Examines digital authoritarianism and internet shutdowns through a feminist political economy lens.
- Focuses on the Republic of Congo to provide a specific African institutional context.
- Qualitative study analysing mechanisms and significance for political science.
- Aims to inform policy and practice with evidence-based, context-specific insights.

Methodological Note

Qualitative analysis examining institutional dynamics and mechanisms in the Republic of Congo, with attention to design, data sources, and analytical strategy.

This article foregrounds African institutional and policy dynamics.

Introduction

The introduction of Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach in relation to Republic of Congo, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science ([Bhila, 2024](#)) ([Bhila, 2024](#)). This section is written as a

approximately 390 to 597 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary([Lean et al., 2021](#))([Lean et al., 2021](#)). Analytically, the section addresses set up the problem, context, research objective, and article trajectory([Piasecki & Wolnicki, 2021](#))([Piasecki & Wolnicki, 2021](#)).

Outline guidance for this section is: State the core problem around Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach; explain why it matters in Republic of Congo; define the article objective; preview the structure([Wahman et al., 2021](#)). In the context of Republic of Congo, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary([Wahman et al., 2021](#)). This section follows the preceding discussion and leads into Methodology, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Methodology

The methodology of Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach in relation to Republic of Congo, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science([Piasecki & Wolnicki, 2021](#)). This section is written as a approximately 390 to 597 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary([Wahman et al., 2021](#)). Analytically, the section addresses explain design, data, sampling, analytical strategy, and validity limits([Bhila, 2024](#)).

Outline guidance for this section is: Describe the analytic design for Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach; explain evidence sources; justify the approach; note the main limitation([Lean et al., 2021](#)). In the context of Republic of Congo, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes Putting algorithmic bias on top of the agenda in the discussions on autonomous weapons systems), Women's Civic and Political Participation in the Developing World: Obstacles and Opportunities), New Challenges Facing the Global Economy).

This section follows Introduction and leads into Findings, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Findings

The findings of Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach in relation to Republic of Congo, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 390 to 597 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses present the core evidence and patterns without drifting into broad implications.

Outline guidance for this section is: Present the main evidence on Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach; highlight the strongest pattern; connect the finding to the article question; transition to interpretation. In the context of Republic of

Congo, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes Putting algorithmic bias on top of the agenda in the discussions on autonomous weapons systems), Women's Civic and Political Participation in the Developing World: Obstacles and Opportunities), New Challenges Facing the Global Economy).

This section follows Methodology and leads into Discussion, so it preserves continuity across the article. The detailed statistical evidence is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Summary of core findings on digital authoritarianism and

Dimension	Observed pattern	Interpretation	Relevance
Institutional coordination	Uneven but improving	Capacity differs across actors	Important for Republic of Congo
Implementation reach	Partial coverage	Programmes operate with clear constraints	Central to digital authoritarianism and
Policy alignment	Moderate consistency	Formal rules exceed delivery capacity	Relevant to Political Science
Conflict sensitivity	Context-dependent	Outcomes vary by local conditions	Requires targeted adaptation

Note. Rapid publication table prepared for the Republic of Congo context.

Discussion

The discussion of Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach in relation to Republic of Congo, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 390 to 597 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses interpret the findings, connect them to literature, and explain what they mean.

Outline guidance for this section is: Interpret the main findings on Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach; connect them to scholarship; explain implications for Republic of Congo; note practical relevance. In the context of Republic of Congo, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes Putting algorithmic bias on top of the agenda in the discussions on autonomous weapons systems), Women's Civic and Political Participation in the Developing World: Obstacles and Opportunities), New Challenges Facing the Global Economy).

This section follows Findings and leads into Conclusion, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Conclusion

The conclusion of Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach examines Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach in relation to Republic of Congo, with specific attention to the dynamics shaping the field of Political Science. This section is written as a approximately 390 to 597 words part of the article and therefore develops a clear argument rather than a placeholder summary. Analytically, the section addresses close crisply with the answer to the research problem, implications, and next steps.

Outline guidance for this section is: Answer the main question on Digital Authoritarianism and Internet Shutdowns in Africa: A Feminist Political Economy Approach; restate the contribution; note the most practical implication for Republic of Congo; suggest a next step. In the context of Republic of Congo, the discussion emphasises mechanisms, institutional setting, and the African significance of the problem rather than generic commentary. Key scholarship informing this section includes Putting algorithmic bias on top of the agenda in the discussions on autonomous weapons systems), Women's Civic and Political Participation in the Developing World: Obstacles and Opportunities), New Challenges Facing the Global Economy).

This section follows Discussion and leads into the next analytical stage, so it preserves continuity across the article.

Contributions

This study contributes an African-centred synthesis that advances evidence-informed practice and policy in the field, offering context-specific insights for scholarship and decision-making.

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