



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Africa: An Ethnographic Study in Burkina Faso, 2009

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Abstract

The political economy of natural resource extraction in Central Africa has been a topic of interest for decades, with Burkina Faso serving as a case study due to its significant mineral wealth and complex governance structures. Fieldwork was conducted in two regions of Burkina Faso, involving semi-structured interviews with community leaders, government officials, and local residents. Data collection methods included participant observation and informal discussions to capture nuanced insights into the economic and political relationships. Community members expressed significant concerns about environmental degradation and loss of traditional livelihoods due to mining activities, highlighting a clear disconnect between resource extraction projects and sustainable development goals. The study reveals that while there are efforts at central government level to regulate natural resources, local communities often feel marginalized in decision-making processes. There is an urgent need for greater transparency and community involvement in resource management strategies. Policy recommendations include strengthening community participation in resource allocation decisions, implementing more stringent environmental regulations, and fostering collaborative governance models that prioritise sustainable development over short-term economic gains.

Keywords: *Geographical Indicators, Resource Governance, Political Ecology, Community Resistance, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Actor Networks Theory, Postcolonial Critique*

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