



The Historical Foundations Underpinning Contemporary Governance Challenges in South Africa

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Abstract

South Africa's governance challenges are deeply rooted in its history of colonialism, apartheid, and subsequent democratic transition. This study employs a qualitative research approach, analysing archival documents, interviews with key stakeholders, and secondary data to trace the historical roots of contemporary challenges. Interviews revealed that structural inequalities persist, particularly among historically disadvantaged groups who face significant barriers in accessing political power and resources. Historical legacies continue to shape South Africa's governance landscape, necessitating targeted interventions to address systemic issues like corruption and inequality. Policy recommendations include strengthening anti-corruption measures and promoting inclusive economic policies to mitigate the lasting impacts of apartheid.

Keywords: *Africanization, Colonialism, Decolonization, Democracy, Heritage, Postcolonialism, Qualitative*

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