



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Sierra Leone: An African Perspective

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Abstract

Natural resource extraction has been a significant economic driver in Sierra Leone for several decades. The study employs qualitative research methods, including interviews with government officials, civil society representatives, and expert consultations. There is a clear correlation between the concentration of power within extractive industries and political instability in Sierra Leone. Policy reforms are needed to ensure that natural resource wealth benefits all segments of society rather than being concentrated among elites. Implement transparent procurement processes, establish independent oversight bodies, and promote inclusive economic development strategies.

Keywords: *African geography, resource curse, political economy, governance, decentralization, dependency theory, extraction impacts*

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