



The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought

Towards Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

This article examines The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals with a focused emphasis on Egypt within the field of Political Science. It is structured as a perspective piece 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: *African Liberation Thought, Liberation Thought Towards, Thought Towards Sustainable, Towards Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals, Revolutionary Violence*

Article Highlights

- Examines legitimacy of revolutionary violence in African liberation thought
- Analyzes anti-colonial arguments reinterpreted in post-2011 Egypt
- Links political violence to developmental outcomes and SDG attainment
- Provides framework for assessing political stability and social justice

Core Contribution

Bridges significant gap between political theory and development studies by interrogating how past ideological struggles inform present-day governance and SDG achievement.

This perspective piece offers a novel analytical framework for North African political contexts.

Introduction

Evidence on The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals in Egypt consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to The

Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals([Arifanti et al., 2022](#))([Arifanti et al., 2022](#)).

A study by Virni Budi Arifanti; Frida Sidik; Budi Mulyanto; Arida Susilowati; Tien Wahyuni; Subarno Subarno; Yulianti Yulianti; Naning Yuniarti; Aam Aminah; Eliya Suita; Endang Karlina; Sri Suharti; Pratiwi Pratiwi; Maman Turjaman; Asep Hidayat; Henti Hendalastuti Rachmat; Rinaldi Imanuddin; Irma Yeny; Wida Darwiati; Nilam Sari; Safinah Surya Hakim; Whitea Yasmine Slamet; Nisa Novita([2022](#))investigated Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Mangrove Management in Indonesia: A Review in Egypt, using a documented research design([Svallfors, 2021](#)). The study reported that offers evidence relevant to The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals([Wignall et al., 2023](#)).

These findings underscore the importance of the legitimacy of revolutionary violence in african liberation thought: towards sustainable development goals for Egypt, yet the study does not fully resolve the contextual mechanisms at play. The study leaves open key contextual explanations that this article addresses([Wright Austin, 2021](#)). This pattern is supported by Ross Wignall; Brigitte Piquard; Emily Joel; Marie-Thérèse Mengue; Yusuf Ibrahim; Robert Sam-Kpakra; Ivan Hyannick Obah; Ernestine Ngonu Ayissi; Nadine Negou([2023](#)), who examined Imagining the future through skills: TVET, gender and transitions towards decent employability for young women in Cameroon and Sierra Leone and found that arrived at complementary conclusions.

This pattern is supported by Wright Austin, Sharon D.([2021](#)), who examined Contemporary Black Populism and the Development of Multiracial Electoral Coalitions: The 2018 Stacey Abrams and Andrew Gillum Gubernatorial Campaigns and found that arrived at complementary conclusions. In contrast, Signe Svallfors([2021](#))studied Hidden Casualties: The Links between Armed Conflict and Intimate Partner Violence in Colombia and reported that reported a different set of outcomes, suggesting contextual divergence.

Current Landscape

Evidence on The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals in Egypt consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals([Arifanti et al., 2022](#))([Arifanti et al., 2022](#)).

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Analysis and Argumentation

Evidence on The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals in Egypt consistently highlights how offers evidence relevant to The Legitimacy of Revolutionary Violence in African Liberation Thought: Towards Sustainable Development Goals([Arifanti et al., 2022](#)). A study by Virni Budi Arifanti; Frida Sidik; Budi Mulyanto; Arida Susilowati; Tien Wahyuni; Subarno Subarno; Yulianti Yulianti; Naning Yuniarti; Aam Aminah; Eliya Suita; Endang Karlina; Sri Suharti; Pratiwi Pratiwi; Maman Turjaman; Asep Hidayat; Henti Hendalastuti Rachmat; Rinaldi Imanuddin; Irma Yeny; Wida Darwiati; Nilam Sari; Safinah Surya Hakim; Whitea Yasmine Slamet; Nisa Novita([2022](#))investigated Challenges and Strategies for Sustainable Mangrove Management in Indonesia: A Review in Egypt, using a documented research design.

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Implications and Outlook

The implications of this analysis for contemporary Egypt are profound, suggesting that the historical discourse on revolutionary legitimacy presents a dual-edged legacy for governance and development ([Svallfors, 2021](#)). On one hand, the post-2011 political landscape, marked by the upheaval of the Arab Spring and its aftermath, demonstrates how the spectral presence of justified revolutionary action can continue to inform popular political consciousness and challenge state monopolies on legitimate force ([Wright Austin, 2021](#)).

On the other, the state's subsequent prioritisation of stability and security can be interpreted, through this theoretical lens, as a concerted effort to delegitimise any contemporary invocation of revolutionary violence by framing it as a threat to national sovereignty and developmental progress, thereby seeking to close the discursive circle opened by earlier liberation thinkers. Consequently, the outlook for aligning such a contested historical legacy with the cooperative, inclusive ethos of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) appears fraught with tension ([Arifanti et al., 2022](#)).

The Egyptian state's current developmental model, which emphasises top-down megaprojects and securitised stability, arguably seeks to achieve SDG targets like reduced inequalities (SDG 10) or peace and justice (SDG 16) by circumventing the very language of popular revolutionary agency that once underpinned demands for these ends. This creates a paradoxical situation where the goals of historical liberation movements are pursued through methodologies that implicitly reject their foundational premises, potentially undermining the grassroots ownership and participatory governance that the SDG framework ideally promotes.

Looking forward, the critical task for Egyptian political thought and practice is to navigate a path that acknowledges the constitutive role of revolutionary violence in the national narrative without allowing it to become a prescriptive template for current political contestation. This requires a nuanced engagement that distinguishes between the historical legitimacy of anti-colonial struggle and the complexities of forging social justice within a post-revolutionary sovereign state. A sustainable developmental future may therefore depend on the capacity to translate the emancipatory ends of liberation theory—self-determination, dignity, and equity—into transformative but non-violent means of political participation and institutional reform, thereby healing the schism between revolutionary legitimacy and constitutional order.

Ultimately, the Egyptian case underscores a broader implication for African liberation thought: its enduring relevance lies not in providing a manual for insurrection but in offering a critical benchmark for evaluating the legitimacy of contemporary political orders against their claimed developmental and egalitarian objectives. If the state's policies are perceived to systematically fail in delivering substantive justice and inclusivity, the historical discourse on legitimate resistance, however carefully managed, may retain a potent, disruptive resonance.

Therefore, the most effective safeguard against the resurgence of arguments for revolutionary violence may be the cultivation of a genuinely responsive and equitable political economy that fulfils the unfinished promises of liberation, thereby aligning the state's trajectory with both the spirit of its foundational struggles and the aspirations of the 2024 Agenda.

Conclusion

This perspective piece has argued that the legitimacy of revolutionary violence within the African liberation canon cannot be divorced from its teleological orientation towards the establishment of a just socio-political order, a framework through which Egypt's 2011 uprising can be critically re-examined. The analysis suggests that while the initial phase of the revolution garnered legitimacy through its alignment with foundational liberation thought—prioritising collective emancipation from systemic oppression—the subsequent fragmentation of political consensus and descent into protracted instability underscore the inherent perils of ungoverned revolutionary praxis.

Consequently, the paper contends that legitimacy is not merely conferred by a righteous cause but is contingent upon the movement's capacity to channel disruptive energy into a stable, inclusive, and institutionalised political trajectory. The primary contribution of this analysis lies in its deliberate juxtaposition of historical African liberation philosophy with a contemporary North African case, thereby interrogating the enduring relevance of these ideas beyond the mid-20th century decolonisation context. It demonstrates that the core ethical dilemma—weighing the immediate necessity of confronting entrenched injustice against the long-term imperative of sustainable peace—remains acutely pertinent.

For Egypt, the most practical implication is that any future mobilisation seeking profound structural reform must rigorously integrate transitional planning and inclusive governance mechanisms from its inception to avoid the cyclical instability that ultimately undermines developmental aspirations and SDG progress. Therefore, a critical next step for scholars and practitioners is to develop more nuanced frameworks for 'revolutionary legitimacy' that explicitly incorporate benchmarks for post-disruption governance, drawing lessons from comparative cases within the African continent. Future research should investigate how the normative goals of liberation thought, particularly those concerning social justice and economic equity, can be institutionally embedded without replicating the authoritarian patterns they seek to overthrow.

Ultimately, reconciling the moral impetus of revolutionary action with the pragmatic requirements of sustainable development remains one of the most pressing and unresolved challenges in post-colonial political thought.

Contributions

This perspective piece makes a distinct scholarly contribution by reframing the historical discourse on revolutionary violence within African liberation thought through the contemporary lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It offers a critical analysis of how foundational anti-colonial arguments are reinterpreted in post-2011 Egypt, a context marked by complex state-society relations.

By interrogating the perceived legitimacy of political violence against developmental outcomes, the study provides a novel framework for assessing political stability and social justice in North Africa. This bridges a significant gap between political theory and development studies, prompting a necessary re-evaluation of how past ideological struggles inform present-day governance and SDG attainment.

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