



Regional Economic Blocs in Africa: A Comparative Analysis with Focus on Guinea-Bissau

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Abstract

Regional economic blocs in Africa are complex networks of states aiming to enhance trade, investment, and regional integration. Guinea-Bissau is a small West African country that has historically faced challenges in establishing effective economic alliances. The research employs a qualitative approach involving an examination of existing literature, archival data from regional bodies, and interviews with key stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau. Findings indicate that while ECOWAS has provided some economic benefits to Guinea-Bissau, SADC's influence is more pronounced due to its broader geographical scope and diverse member states. Both blocs have contributed differently to Guinea-Bissau's development landscape. The study highlights the importance of tailored regional strategies for effective integration into these blocs. Policy recommendations include a focus on enhancing trade facilitation within ECOWAS, alongside exploring opportunities for increased engagement with SADC member states in Guinea-Bissau's economic strategy.

Keywords: *African geography, regional integration, economic sociology, state formation, power relations, sub-Saharan Africa, development studies*

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