



Regional Economic Blocs in Egypt: An Ethnographic Comparative Study of African Dynamics

Abdel Rahman El Sayed¹

¹ Helwan University

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Correspondence: asayed@gmail.com

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Author notes

Abdel Rahman El Sayed is affiliated with Helwan University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Regional economic blocs play a significant role in shaping regional dynamics within African countries. Egypt, as a pivotal nation, exemplifies this through its involvement with the African Union and the Maghreb Cooperation. The study adopts an ethnographic approach, involving multiple qualitative interviews with stakeholders from various sectors, including government officials, business leaders, and community members. Data collection also includes document analysis of official documents related to regional integration initiatives. Significant themes emerged regarding the influence of these blocs on economic diversification efforts in Egypt, with a notable proportion (36%) of respondents indicating that increased trade within the African Union has led to more diversified export sectors compared to pre-bloc engagement. Cultural practices have also been affected, with some traditions experiencing changes as a result of inter-regional cultural exchanges facilitated by these blocs. The study concludes that while both regional economic blocs contribute positively to Egypt's socio-economic development, they also introduce challenges such as potential conflicts over resource distribution and cultural homogenization. These findings highlight the need for more nuanced policy approaches in fostering inclusive growth within these blocs. Policy recommendations include enhancing dialogue between different regions to mitigate potential conflicts and ensuring that cultural values are preserved while promoting economic integration. Additionally, there is a need for increased transparency and accountability in resource allocation strategies.

Keywords: *Pan-Africanism, Sub-Saharan, Ethnography, Federalism, Decolonization, Geopolitics, Cultural Imperialism*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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