



Music as a Political Expression During African Transitions: A Comparative Study in North Africa and Ghana

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Abstract

Music has emerged as a significant form of cultural expression in various political contexts worldwide. During transitions, music serves as a medium for articulating socio-political sentiments and aspirations. This study aims to explore how music functions as a tool of political expression during periods of change. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative content analysis of musical performances with quantitative surveys among youth populations in both regions. Data collection includes audio recordings, interviews, and online surveys designed to capture current trends and historical influences. Findings indicate that music provides a platform for marginalized voices to be heard, particularly in North Africa where state-controlled media often suppress dissenting views. In Ghana, traditional rhythms have been adapted to express political messages, with a notable increase in politically charged performances since the early 2010s. This study reveals that music plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing policy during transitional periods. It highlights how musical expressions can serve as both a reflection of societal attitudes and an active participant in political change. Future research should explore the long-term impact of politically charged music on governance and social cohesion, while policymakers could consider incorporating musical elements into civic education programmes to promote democratic engagement. Music, Political Expression, Transitional Periods, North Africa, Ghana

Keywords: *African, Pan-Africanism, Ethnomusicology, Postcolonial, Nationalism, Decolonization, Diaspora*

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