



Theoretical Foundations of Traditional Governance Structures within Modern Democratic Processes in Southern Africa: A Focus on Gabon

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Abstract

This study examines traditional governance structures in Gabon within the context of modern democratic processes, focusing on how these historical systems influence contemporary political and social landscapes. A qualitative approach involving historical research and interviews with traditional leaders and contemporary politicians was employed to analyse the interplay between traditional and modern governance structures. The study underscores the potential for enhanced cooperation between traditional and modern governance structures in facilitating smoother transitions towards more inclusive political systems. Policy recommendations include fostering dialogues between traditional leaders and elected officials to ensure a harmonious blend of ancient wisdom with contemporary democratic principles. This could lead to more effective local governance and greater public satisfaction.

Keywords: *African geography, traditional institutions, modernization theory, governance structures, cultural diffusion, political sociology, ethnography*

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