



Music as a Political Expression during Transitions in North Africa and South Africa: A Qualitative Exploration

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Abstract

Music has been a significant form of political expression during social and political transitions in various regions. The research employs qualitative methods including semi-structured interviews with musicians, activists, and scholars involved in political movements in North Africa and South Africa. Document analysis of musical compositions, lyrics, and performances is also conducted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of music as a political tool. Music during these transitions often served as a platform for expressing dissent against oppressive regimes, promoting social justice, and fostering community cohesion. Themes such as freedom, equality, and resistance were prevalent in many musical expressions. This study reveals the multifaceted role of music in political transitions by highlighting its capacity to articulate complex societal issues and mobilize public support for change. Policy makers should consider integrating music education into curricula as a means of promoting civic engagement and social justice. Additionally, supporting local musicians who use their art to advocate for positive social change can be beneficial in fostering democratic values. Music, Political Expression, Social Justice, Transitions, North Africa, South Africa

Keywords: *North African, South African, qualitative, ethnography, symbolism, discourse, hermeneutics*

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