



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Africa within South African Contexts

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Abstract

The extraction of natural resources in Central Africa has been a topic of increasing interest due to its potential economic benefits and environmental impacts. South African interests often play a significant role in these resource-rich countries, influencing policy decisions and development trajectories. The analysis employs a qualitative approach to examine case studies of resource-rich countries within the region. Policy documents, interviews with stakeholders, and secondary data were used to assess governance structures, economic policies, and environmental impact assessments. A notable finding is the disproportionate influence exerted by South African companies on local governments in decision-making processes related to natural resource extraction. This has led to a concentration of benefits among a few actors at the expense of broader community development and sustainable practices. The analysis highlights the importance of fostering more equitable governance structures that balance economic interests with environmental stewardship and social justice, particularly as South African companies expand their footprint in Central Africa. To achieve this, it is recommended that governments implement stricter regulations on foreign investments, enhance transparency in resource allocation processes, and prioritise community development projects alongside mineral extraction.

Keywords: *Africanization, Colonialism, Dependency Theory, Economic Sovereignty, Extractivism, Mercantilism, Political Economy*

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