



# Traditional Governance and Modern Democracy in Southern Africa: The Malagasy Perspective

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## Abstract

Traditional governance structures in southern Africa have been influenced by colonial rule and post-independence political transitions. No empirical data collection was performed; instead, a review of existing literature on traditional governance and contemporary democracy in Madagascar will be analysed. The integration of traditional Malagasy practices into the democratic framework offers insights for other Southern African countries seeking to balance tradition and modern governance. Policy makers should consider integrating traditional council participation in decision-making processes as a way to enhance legitimacy and inclusivity in democratic institutions.

**Keywords:** *African geography, Traditional institutions, Modernization theory, Decolonization studies, Comparative politics, Indigenous governance, Postcolonial analysis*

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