



The Political Economy of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Africa: A Case Study of South Africa

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Abstract

Natural resource extraction in Central Africa has been a significant topic of study due to its economic importance and potential social impacts. The research employs semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gather data from key informants including government officials, industry representatives, and community leaders. A thematic approach is used to analyse the collected data. Themes emerging from the study include resource governance challenges such as corruption and lack of transparency in decision-making processes, which have significant implications for sustainable development in South Africa's natural resources sector. The findings highlight critical areas where policy reforms are needed to enhance accountability and promote equitable outcomes in natural resource exploitation. Recommendations include strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing public participation mechanisms, and fostering collaborative governance models between stakeholders.

Keywords: *African geography, Political economy, Resource nationalism, Dependency theory, Colonial legacies, Postcolonial studies, Economic sovereignty*

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