



Comparative Economic Blocs in African Regional Integration: A Liberian Perspective

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Published: 12 June 2003 | **Received:** 26 February 2003 | **Accepted:** 16 May 2003

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18776926](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18776926)

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Abstract

This study examines the role of regional economic blocs in African integration, focusing on their impact on Liberia's economy and policies. A comparative qualitative study was conducted by reviewing existing literature on African regional economic blocs and conducting interviews with policymakers and economists in Liberia. Liberia has been significantly influenced by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), particularly in terms of trade facilitation measures, which have led to a 20% increase in cross-border commerce over the past five years. Despite ECOWAS's positive impact on Liberia's economy, there is room for improvement in areas such as investment and infrastructure connectivity within the bloc. Liberian policymakers should consider expanding participation in regional economic initiatives beyond ECOWAS to enhance overall integration with Africa.

Keywords: *African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Regionalism, Mercantilism, Dependency Theory, Integration Policies, Geographic Economics*

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