



Historical Foundations and Contemporary Challenges in Sierra Leonean Governance: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Historical governance in Sierra Leone has been marked by colonial legacy, civil war, and subsequent peacebuilding efforts. An ethnographic study was conducted, incorporating participant observation and semi-structured interviews to understand local perceptions and practices. Participants highlighted a significant role for traditional leaders in conflict resolution, which contrasts with the formal government structure's influence. The study underscores the importance of integrating traditional governance structures into contemporary peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone. Policy recommendations include strengthening partnerships between traditional and governmental institutions to enhance conflict mitigation strategies.

Keywords: *Geographic, Colonialism, Civil War, Peacebuilding, Community Engagement, Ethnography, Historical Continuity*

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