



Informal Cross-Border Trade and Regional Integration in ECOWAS: An African Perspective

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Abstract

Informal cross-border trade plays a significant role in regional integration within ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), particularly highlighting Egypt's involvement. A qualitative research approach was employed to collect data through interviews with traders and policymakers in selected ECOWAS member states. The analysis underscores the importance of integrating informal trade into formal regional integration frameworks to enhance overall economic development in ECOWAS. Policy recommendations include developing targeted regulatory measures to facilitate smoother cross-border transactions and fostering greater cooperation among member states.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan, Geopolitics, Mercantilism, Neo-traditionalism, Dependency Theory*

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