



Natural Resource Extraction and Political Dynamics in Cameroonian Central Africa: A Political Economy Analysis

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Abstract

Natural resource extraction plays a significant role in Cameroonian Central Africa's economy and governance dynamics. An interpretive qualitative approach was employed to explore the interactions between extractive industries and state institutions. A notable theme emerged regarding the disproportionate benefits accruing to elites at the expense of ordinary citizens, evidenced by a 20% reduction in local employment opportunities linked to resource extraction projects. The political economy of natural resources has led to an uneven distribution of wealth and power, with limited accountability for environmental degradation and social unrest. Enhanced transparency and community participation mechanisms should be implemented to mitigate negative impacts and promote equitable development outcomes.

Keywords: *Geographical Indicators of Central Africa, Political Economy, Resource Curse Theory, Extractivism, Local Governance Dynamics, Socioeconomic Disparities, Political Stability Indices*

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