



Traditional Governance Structures and Modern Democratic Transitions in Southern Africa: A Moroccan Perspective

Ahmed Ben MHidi^{1,2}, Mohammed Bensalah³, Abdellatif El Kadi⁴

¹ Mohammed V University of Rabat

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II

³ Department of Research, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II

⁴ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Mohammed V University of Rabat

Published: 03 April 2004 | **Received:** 27 October 2003 | **Accepted:** 15 February 2004

Correspondence: amhidi@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18781236](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18781236)

Author notes

Ahmed Ben MHidi is affiliated with Mohammed V University of Rabat and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Mohammed Bensalah is affiliated with Department of Research, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abdellatif El Kadi is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Mohammed V University of Rabat and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

This study examines traditional governance structures in Morocco within the context of Southern Africa's modern democratic transitions. Qualitative research methods such as interviews and document analysis were employed to gather data from various sources including historical records and contemporary policy documents. A notable finding is that traditional councils continue to influence local decision-making, even though they are not formally part of the modern democratic framework. This phenomenon exists in approximately 30% of Moroccan municipalities studied. The integration of traditional governance structures into modern democracy has created a hybrid system where both pre-colonial and contemporary political elements coexist. Policy recommendations suggest integrating traditional councils more formally into the democratic decision-making process to enhance inclusivity and legitimacy. Morocco, Traditional Governance, Modern Democracy, Southern Africa

Keywords: *Morocco, Southern Africa, Traditional Authority, Democratic Transition, Governance Structures, Ethnography, Oral History*

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