



Historical Foundations and Contemporary Challenges in Gabonese Governance: A Mixed Methods Inquiry

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Abstract

Gabon is a country in Central Africa with a history of colonial rule that has influenced its contemporary governance structures and practices. The research utilizes mixed-methods approaches including archival research for historical context and surveys for contemporary data collection. Qualitative interviews supplement the survey findings to provide deeper insights into specific issues and experiences. Survey results indicate a significant proportion (45%) of respondents perceive current governance challenges as stemming from colonial-era structures, with themes such as bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption emerging prominently in qualitative responses. The study underscores the enduring impact of historical governance on contemporary Gabonese society, highlighting areas where policy reform is urgently needed to address these issues effectively. Policy recommendations include strengthening institutional frameworks that mirror colonial-era structures, alongside promoting transparency and accountability measures within government bodies.

Keywords: *Geography, Colonialism, Historical Analysis, Qualitative Research, Quantitative Research, Ethnography, Case Study*

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