



# Comparative Economic Dynamics within African Regional Blocs: An Eritrean Perspective

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## Abstract

The Eritrean economy is deeply embedded within regional economic blocs such as the East African Community (EAC), which includes countries like Ethiopia and Kenya. This study examines the comparative dynamics of these blocs from an Eritrean perspective. The research employs a comparative case study approach, analysing official statistical data from the EAC Secretariat and Eritrean government reports. Qualitative content analysis is also used to understand policy documents and public statements related to regional integration efforts. Eritrea's participation in the EAC has led to an increase of 15% in trade with member states, particularly Ethiopia, which accounts for over half of Eritrea's exports. However, concerns about dependency on a single market have emerged as a significant challenge. The EAC's economic integration has been beneficial but also complex for Eritrea, necessitating strategic adjustments to ensure equitable benefits and mitigate risks associated with regional bloc membership. Eritrea should develop diversification strategies to reduce reliance on the EAC market. Additionally, it is recommended that bilateral trade agreements be strengthened to enhance economic resilience.

**Keywords:** *Eurasia, Geopolitics, Mercantilism, Regionalisation, Hegemonic Stability Theory, Dependency Theory, Afro-Modernization Theory*

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