



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

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Abstract

Central Africa is a region characterized by significant natural resource wealth, including minerals, oil, and timber. The exploitation of these resources has had profound impacts on political and economic landscapes in various countries within the region. The research employs comparative analysis of secondary data from governmental reports, academic journals, and international organizations focusing on resource extraction in Central Africa. A thematic approach is used to identify common themes across different contexts. A notable finding is the significant revenue generated by natural resources but also the stark inequalities in distribution among various stakeholders including local communities and national governments. The analysis underscores the need for more equitable resource management frameworks that prioritise sustainable development and social welfare, as exemplified by Egypt's recent initiatives to improve community engagement and environmental protection measures. Policy recommendations include strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing transparency in resource allocation, and fostering dialogue between extractive industries and affected communities to ensure inclusive growth.

Keywords: *Central African Republic, DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), Extractivism, Political Economy, Dependency Theory, Geopolitics, Resource Curse*

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