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The Resource Curse in Africa

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THE RESOURCE CURSE OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

The continent of Africa is known for its vast array of resources and rich mineral deposits. Resource wise, it is the richest country in the world. However, when examining Africa's economic and political development, this may be hard to believe. The purpose of this research is to examine whether the resource curse has affected the stability and growth of the continent, using secondary sources and case studies.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Is there a resource curse in Africa? If so, how does this affect rates of stability and growth across the continent?



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METHODOLOGY AND DATA

PROPOSED METHOD:

Comparative Case Study: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana

Data:

Freedom House Stability Index
GDP for the selected countries

HYPOTHESIS

Hypothesis

H1: Resources will prove to be “curses” to African countries’ economies due to weak and poorly managed institutions that are not responsive enough to deal with the needs of the public and its resources.



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ANTICIPATED FINDINGS

- The Resource Curse is real and has a significant negative economic impact across the continent.
- A large contributor to this issue is weak or poorly managed institutions.
- A country’s GDP is often positively linked with their stability.

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