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## POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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**ABSTRACT:** Along with focusing on Kosovo, the paper looks at the parts of regional growth and stresses how the economy, society, and environment are all connected. It says that long-term economic infrastructure and fair growth are important for a region's success. This article takes a critical look at the link between political leadership and growth, focused on what happened in African states after they got their independence. The piece goes into detail about the different ideologies, development models, and problems that leaders during the Cold War had to deal with as they tried to decide what would happen to their countries. Plan in mind: modernization The piece goes into theory and shows how it can help us understand the shift from premodern to modern states. The main idea of the thesis is that good governance is important for growth and that political leadership has an impact on economic strategy. This book uses Ghana and other countries as examples to look at leadership, political governance, and economic growth in different ways. The piece talks about how different types of leadership, government structures, and economic policies can affect development outcomes. It stresses how important it is to have strong institutions and a government that includes everyone. The book looks at party and national leadership and includes a case study of Kenyan politics. The book is about Kenya's political history. It focuses on how power has grown and how different leaders have shaped development plans and outcomes. Lastly, a Case Study of Kenya is given to show the good and bad points of Kenya's growth path. This includes how parastatal institutions work, the results of constitutional changes, and what happens when there is only one party in the parliament.

**Keywords:** Leadership, Economy, Governance, Modernisation, Development

## I. INTRODUCTION

Development and leadership are inseparable, complementary aspects of the same whole. They are mutually dependent. If one does well, the other will do well as well. Leadership can be challenging in many forms, including constitutional, secular/charismatic, traditional, and religious. Similarly, development can be seen via various lenses, including political, economic, social, etc. Leadership is a key component of development, and vice versa (Awofeso & Odeyemi, 2014).

## II. MEANING AND TYPES OF LEADERSHIP

Leadership is the ability to rally others around a shared goal, impacting their thoughts, feelings, deeds, and character traits. A nation's or company's level of production is directly proportional to the caliber of its leadership. Leadership has been underappreciated in public administration for some time, but public sector leaders already possess a rightful place of authority. Leaders in business can do a better job if they focus on developing their leadership skills and values. The article's leadership tenets center on political constitutional leadership, which requires foundational elements like political stability, rule of law, robust democratic principles, and economic growth. Economic growth is the foundation upon which all other forms of development rest, and any economy that can stand on its own two feet, has an industrial sector, a high human development index, and uses modern technology is either developed or striving to be.

### Type I: Inactive Leadership

Foreign strategies that aim to avoid the rise conundrum are preferred by inactive leaders of emerging states. Inert leaders will shift Taiwan's policy from unity to peace and benefit protection when confronted with the potential for conflict across the Taiwan Strait. Power transitions frequently occur when leaders of emerging nations are powerless to halt the relentless onslaught of external pressure, most of it stemming from internal tensions between the two groups.

### Type II: Conservative Leadership

Foreign policy centered on economic and trade cooperation is a common tactic for conservative leaders of growing states. They believe that economic conflicts between hegemony and rising states are the root source of the rise issue. Cooperation in the economy can temporarily alleviate tensions between hegemony and rising states, but it is not a permanent solution to the problem of external pressure.

### Type III: Proactive Leadership

Alliance methods that build a nice neighborhood supportive of a rising state's rise are preferred by proactive leaders of that state. As their states' comprehensive strength grows, they pledge to increase their states' international authority proportionally. Rising state leaders who are aggressive in their pursuit of friends, particularly in areas of political support and security cooperation, will look to their neighboring countries to help break the containment that hegemony is imposing.

### Type IV: Aggressive Leadership

Provocative heads of state from emerging nations support the expansionist foreign policy of militarism. When the opportunity presents itself, aggressive leaders of a rising power will launch military assaults on

smaller or secondary powers, even those that are friends of hegemons. Aggressive leaders need to be unaffected by the natural human dread of conflict, as expanding the military is a risky business.

### **III. DIFFERENT WORLD LEADERS AND THEIR IDEOLOGIES**

This article examines the world's division into developed and developing countries due to human behaviors. The focus is on modern world leaders from the 20th century and beyond, examining their ideologies and methods of shaping their respective economies. The article also examines political figures who have had an impact on national economy growth from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance and up until the present day. The article emphasizes contemporary political leaders who have acknowledged the value of democracy and implemented it into practice. Notable figures include former Presidents Clinton and Obama of the United States, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and President Xi Jinping of China. The worldview of political leadership is considered from the perspective of democratic governance, which measures the degree to which influential individuals have accepted democratic principles. Democracy can appeal to citizens in authoritarian settings, as democratic regimes often run among the world's most stable, affluent, and cohesive countries. Democracy is essential for achieving human equality and dignity, and a democratic government can generate an environment favorable to investment as long as there is safety and stability. The study of democracy has been approached from various perspectives, with the author asserting that the democratization of industries is crucial for a democracy's efficiency. Without industrialization, no civilization can advance, and every political leader is responsible for guiding the economy towards economic development. Progress, resulting from economic activity, is the primary priority of every governing body, regardless of its type. Economic developments manifest in various ways, such as industrialization, privatization, commercialization, self-sufficiency, low importation, and high exporting.

### **IV. A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP**

After gaining independence, African political leaders faced numerous challenges in advancing their nations' economies. They had opposing viewpoints on how to advance their economies, but they agreed on methods using diagnostic tools and development plans. Three different models were used for planning development: the Indicative Model, which was a Western method, the Centralized or Imperative Model, or the Socialist Model. Most African leaders chose a mixed economy with both public and private sectors playing prominent roles, with development planning being centralized. Another challenge was selecting an ideological framework for growth. African heads of state would trade superpowers depending on which one was most suitable for them and helped them maintain authority. Africa served as a front for both the capitalist Western Bloc and the socialist Eastern Bloc in their proxy wars. The Cold War led to civil conflicts and totalitarian regimes in some countries, resulting in the rise of totalitarian leaders like Mobutu of Zaire, Siad Barre of Somalia, and Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia. African countries gained independence from foreign corporations and firms, affecting every sector of the economy. This reduced the indigenous domestic private sector and limited the local population's funds to keep the economy going. To address this, African governments sought two alternatives: the establishment of parastatals, owned and controlled by the state, and

the establishment of state-owned businesses like banking, transportation, telecommunications equipment manufacturing, and marketing. However, government officials interfered in the functioning of these organizations, transforming top posts into privileges for politically correct individuals. The collapse of these public enterprises was due to extreme losses in the early 1980s.

## V. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic advancement is linked to increased happiness and well-being among citizens. The expansion of the economy is facilitated by cost-effective information interchange and the availability of opportunities. The freedom to live according to one's choices is crucial for economic development. Continuous economic growth is essential for a nation's or society's flourishing. For instance, China's poverty rate decreased from 470,000 in 1985 to 213 million in 2001. A 10% increase in per capita income can reduce poverty rates by 20-30%. In India, rapid and consistent economic growth led to a significant reduction in poverty. However, growth practitioners often reject academics' attempts to quantify economic growth in monetary terms, arguing that using GDP as a stand-in for growth misses other essential factors contributing to economic development. Economic growth should be measured by GDP per capita to provide a better understanding of a country's economic activity. Increased salaries lead to increased investment in education, thereby increasing the demand for better governance.

## VI. MODERNISATION THEORY

This thesis explains the transition from an underdeveloped state to a developed one, focusing on the contributions of both capitalists and Maxists. Maxists believe that as nations advance, they will eventually adopt socialism, while capitalists believe that capitalism is the way to advance. Samuel Huntington, a modernization theorist, believes that democracy should be the primary motivating factor for society's advancement. Modernization aims to bring about a transition from a conventional system to a modern and evolved society, evident in political climate, economic climate, and social and cultural norms when measured against the standards of the industrialized West. Government programs should focus on people's development, and political leaders have the ability to affect the macroeconomy through their policies. Nigeria's political leadership and economic strategy depend on its ability to successfully transition from an outdated system to a modern one.

## VII. LEADERSHIP IN GHANA AND ITS IMPACT

This paper examines the historical influence of leadership styles on Ghana's political governance and economic development. Ghana is a peaceful nation with a constitution that allows freedom and justice. Decisions are made authoritarily, with power flowing down from the top. Leaders treat their positions of power, knowledge, and expertise like personal property. Ken Ofori-Atta's book, *Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Values*, provides insights into Ghana's current leadership position and the kind of leadership needed for the country to overcome tough times. Professor Stephen Adei's analysis of local leadership in Ghana's nation building highlights the importance of strong leadership for the nation's advancement. Joseph Stiglitz's book "Making Globalization work" emphasizes the need for a sustainable

development index that prioritizes people over economies. Ban Ki-Moon, former UN secretary general, called for an alternative to GDP as the primary indicator of success.

## VIII. LITERATURE REVIEW

Regarding the conversation around Political Leadership and Economic Development in Developing Countries, a wealth of literature exists that provides in-depth analysis. "Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Values," a book that Ken Ofori-Atta wrote in 2009, is all about how important leadership is to Ghana's growth. The article says that entrepreneurial projects based on core values could make people's lives and career chances much better. Readers are encouraged by Ofori-Atta to support business as a way to help the country get ahead. Values-driven leadership is important, which means that people who want to be entrepreneurs should be guided by morals, honesty, and a sense of social duty. The paper argues for a way of developing that is both socially and morally responsible by blending ideas about leadership with business ventures. "Making Globalization Work," a book by Joseph Stiglitz, questions the traditional focus on GDP and instead urges a shift in thought toward a sustainable development index that is centered on people. There aren't many public records that give the exact year. According to Stiglitz, the way we measure the economy now doesn't take into account people's well-being and freedom. The study emphasizes the need to change how we think about success so that it takes society into account. Through the suggestion of a sustainable development index, Stiglitz wants to encourage a broader view of development by asking leaders and lawmakers to take environmental and social factors into account. The "Europeanization Process and Leadership Styles in Eastern European States" is looked at in this study. More specifically, it looks at how Europeanization has changed the way leaders think in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. A bit disappointing is that there is no sign of the exact year of release. In this piece, the political situation in the area and the connection between Russia and the EU are looked through. By looking into how Europeanization changes leadership styles, the article possibly sheds light on how politics and diplomatic ties are changing in Eastern European countries that are joining the EU.

## IX. RESEARCH GAPS

Research on political leadership and economic development in developing countries is extensive, but there are several gaps in the literature. These include the specific causal mechanisms underlying this relationship, the long-term effects of political leadership, the role of contextual factors, the role of informal institutions and networks, comparative analysis across regions and countries, and the gender dimensions of political leadership and economic development. While there is recognition of a relationship between political leadership and economic development, the specific causal mechanisms underlying this relationship remain underexplored. More research is needed to understand how different leadership styles, decision-making processes, and policy choices directly influence economic outcomes in developing countries. Additionally, more research is needed to understand how contextual factors, such as historical legacies, institutional quality, civil society engagement, and international relations, interact with political leadership to shape economic outcomes in developing countries.

## X. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives of this study is to deepen the understanding about the types of political leaderships existing in different developing nations. The objective also includes the study of Economic growth. Politics has always been a very important factor in the world order so it is very crucial for every individual to know about the types of political system and leadership that runs in their respective nation. This study also includes a critical analysis on political leadership.

## XI. FINDINGS

1. **Impact of Leadership Style:** Studies have shown that the leadership style of political leaders in developing countries can significantly influence economic development. Authoritarian leaders may prioritize short-term gains or personal interests over long-term economic growth, while democratic leaders may foster more inclusive and sustainable economic policies.
2. **Corruption and Governance:** Political leaders play a crucial role in shaping governance structures and combating corruption. Research indicates that high levels of corruption can hinder economic development by reducing investor confidence, distorting resource allocation, and undermining the rule of law. Effective leadership is essential for implementing anti-corruption measures and strengthening institutions to promote economic growth.
3. **Economic growth :** Economic advancement is linked to increased happiness and well-being among citizens. The expansion of the economy is facilitated by cost-effective information interchange and the availability of opportunities.

## XII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Literature analysis:** To gain an understanding of current ideas, frameworks, and empirical research on political leadership and economic development in developing nations, start with a thorough analysis of the body of literature. Seek out important ideas, controversies, and holes in the literature that your study may fill.
2. **Theoretical Structure:** Provide a conceptual framework that describes the essential elements, connections, and processes by which political leadership affects the economic development of developing nations. Take into account elements like social capital, institutions, corruption, policy choices, and the quality of government.
3. **Case Studies:** To offer in-depth analysis and context-specific insights into the connection between political leadership and economic development, use case studies. To represent differences in experiences and results, choose developing nations with different political systems, historical trajectories, and economic growth levels.

### XIII. CONCLUSION

The literature review looks at a lot of different topics that have to do with leadership and government, ranging from the situation in Ghana to issues happening in other countries, such as economic developments and political unrest. These works all have things in common, like how important it is to be a good leader and take responsibility, and how important it is to think about social and environmental issues along with economic growth. Ken Ofori-Atta supports values-based leadership and business in Ghana, which fits with a bigger discussion on holistic development. Joseph Stiglitz makes the case for a people-centered sustainable development index in his attack of GDP as a measure of success. When people in South Africa talk about leadership, they stress how important ethical and servant leadership are for keeping the government stable. By looking into how Europeanization has changed the governments of Eastern European countries and how Russia's leadership works, we can see how complex the web of geopolitical connections is and how economic, security, and political factors all affect the safety of the region. This group of works shows how complicated the connection is between leadership, government, ethics, and political and economic issues.

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