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## **Development and Underdevelopment in Africa: Explored and Unexplored Issues**

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### **Abstract**

The paper examines development and under development in Africa with particular reference to exogenous and endogenous factors as explored and unexplored issues in the continent underdevelopment. The study employs basically secondary sources of data collection where the concepts of 'development' and "underdevelopment as well as theoretical framework are anchored." Also, under development and dependency theories are employed as the yardstick for data collection and interpretation. Findings of the study reveal that even though exogenous factors as advanced by the dependency scholars are useful in understanding Africa's under development, endogenous factors such as corruption, bad leadership, tribalism among others provides a more preponderate explication of the continent developmental regression. This is exemplified in the case of Singapore, and Hong Kong that underwent the same colonial process but have been able to move upward the development ladder via good leadership, good governance, visionary leaders, etc. The paper concludes that in view of the multifarious endogenous factors contributing to Africa' backwardness, blaming Western Europe is out of fashion and hence the emergence of a paradigm shift to how Africans underdeveloped Africa. A key recommendation of this paper is that African should build and strengthen institution to counter all forms of corruption at all levels. This is possible through visionary leadership, good governance, as proven in Singapore, Hongkong, Malaysia and others

**Key Terms:** Development, Underdevelopment, Explored and Unexplored

## **Introduction**

The challenge of development and underdevelopment of Africa and Third World Countries in general has over decades occupied center stage in local and international discourse. Consequently, a plethora of theories were developed to explain the challenges of development and underdevelopment particularly Africa. Some of the prominent theories include classical, developmentalist and Marxist theories. While classical theorists argue that under development is a consequence of rapid population growth, lack of comparative advantage, low savings and investment and low economic growth, developmentalist contend that under development is the outcome of market failure, unbalanced growth, poor linkages and inability to reach the “take off” stage for development. A radical departure from the above two is the Marxist theorists who insisted that that underdevelopment is the result of exploitation by external and internal collaborators with negative impact from colonialism imperialism, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the general dependence of Africa on the developed World Coupled with the stagnation and incorporation of Africa into the World Capitalist system. Despite application of the policy prescription of these theories, Africa has remained largely underdeveloped (Igbuzor, 2011.).

There is abundant empirical research evidence of rising development deficit between advanced capitalist countries and the African continent. In fact, Africa has remained largely underdeveloped regardless of its huge human and natural resource endowment (gold, coca, bauxite oil, diamond, timber) which has prompted many scholars to conclude that Africa is bedeviled with development crisis. The crisis has become almost intractable as several decades after decolonization and political independence Africa is still struggling with rising economic deprivation, mass corruption, economic sectors infrastructural deficit, deteriorating human mortality, political disorderliness and security chaos. The gap has necessitated the inflow of foreign capital into Africa and other less developed

countries aimed at assisting them to address the problem and equilibrate the development imbalance (Sachs, 1992 cited Kutur, 2016).

Thus, in the recent time there is a paradigm shift from the study of development and underdevelopment as a result of dissatisfaction with mainstream development theories. This dissatisfaction led to the emergence of alternative development paradigm. Alternative development paradigm is viewed as a roving critique of mainstream development particularly the dependency theory which focus as on exogenous factors as the cause of underdevelopment and dependency of Africa and the TWCs. This will serve as explored issues as the main trust of this paper and endogenous factors which is the central focal point of the alternative development paradigm as the dominant factors that cause underdevelopment and thwart development of Africa particularly in the recent time. -

The objective of this paper therefore is to critically investigate the explored and unexplored issues connected to the development crisis in Africa and other less developed societies. This paper is based on the proposition that slavery, colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, and capitalism are reasons advanced by the underdevelopment and dependency theorist as obstacle to Africa development are no more excuse in the recent time. Thus, can be regarded as explored issue secondly, endogenous factors of corruption, bad leadership, ethnicity communal conflict violence, etc. play dominant role in under developing the continent particularly in the post independent era-which is the basis for the alternative development paradigm as such serve as unexplored issues. The significance of this study will be relevant not only to the academia, but also to the policy maker and students, it will contribute to the existing literature in political. anatomy and will help the economic policy makers, government in general in Africa in particular in policy formulation and implementation that will propel economic development.

This paper is divided into the following parts; introduction, clarification of concepts theoretical framework, explored and unexplored issue in development and underdevelopment of Africa, conclusion and recommendations.

## Conceptual Clarification of Development and Underdevelopment

Development is an omnibus concept as a lot of scholars have contributed works on it. Many scholars have tended to be influenced to define development based on different perception and ideological inclination. Classical understanding of development approximates it with rise of per capital earning. However, the 1970s witnessed the use of other indices by Bretton Woods and other development intervention institutions. The basic needs approach which focused on attenuating poverty, redressing joblessness and ensuring equity in distribution of income has been become popular in conceptualizing development (Todaro & Smith, 2003 cited Kutur, 2016).

According to Bill Warven (1970 cited Adejoh, 2011), development is a multi-dimensional process that entails key alteration in society's social structures, normative values, national institutions, including increased economic transformation, reduced social disparities and ending poverty. It implies that the conceptual and practical guide for comprehending development should go beyond economic variables to encapsulate social restructuring and general improvement in the quality of lives of the people. This mean that the core values of sustenance, self-respect and freedom which are the goals of man and society are critical in understanding development. Thus, development goes beyond just economic transformation of a society, because development is multifaceted.

*Development is more than just the acquisition of industries, but includes such ideas of modernization as, rise in productivity, social and economic equalization, modern technical know-how improved institution' aid attitudes as well as nationally. coordinated policy apparatus (Box borough, 1979 cited Adejoh , 2011).*

While economic progress is an essential component of development, it is not the only one. Development encompasses more than the financial, and material sides of people live. As observed by Walter Rodney, development in human society is a many- sided process, at the level of individual it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom and creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing. At the level of social groups, it implies an increased capacity to regulate both

internal and external relations thus, development is the qualitative transformation of a society. Dudley Seers (1977) maintains that in order for a country to know her development states, certain questions should be asked and he asserted thus;

*The questions to ask about a country 's development is therefore, what has been happening to poverty? And what has been happening to unemployment? What has been going on with inequality? if all three of these have declined from high level, then beyond doubt, this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worse, especially if all, it would be strange to call it development even if per capital income doubled (seers cited in Adejoh, 2011).*

In a related development Sen (1999) views development from the point of essential human liberties which include political liberty, economic liberty, social liberty, freedom from attack and transparent leadership. The actualization of these liberties would enable citizens fulfil their potentials.

Furthermore, the Oxford concise dictionary of politics describes development as a multi-dimensional, process that normally connotes change from a less to a more disable state. Within the context of a nation — state, development refers to increase in economic efficiency, productive capacity, technological advancement and industrial diversification. However, for development to be sustained the nation must have the capability of coping with external shocks. This may have prompted Goviet (1972) to conclude that development consist majorly of self-sustenance, self-respect and freedom. Nnoli views development as a checklist of technical artifact — institution and informational development as good road network, hospital, etc. By and large, it could be inferred from the viewpoints of scholars cited above that development is a general improvement in every aspect of human society.

Conceptually under development, contrary to the views of some scholars does not mean the absence of development. No human society is even static. Every human society develops in one way or another

throughout the period of its existence. The term underdevelopment means that the economy of a country is below the level expected of it.

Nnadi and Falodun (2003) see the term underdevelopment from economic perspective. Underdevelopment is that stage at which industrialization and the level of the national income are so low that domestic savings is not enough to finance the investment required for further growth. Thus, underdeveloped countries are also referred to as poor or backward countries.

Economic under development exist where manufactured goods are a small proportion of total output, where the capital stock available per head of the population is very low, where the income per head is very low and where there is chronic mass poverty.

Rodney (1972) argued many countries of the world that are endowed with abundant natural resources are largely impoverished while countries that are less endowed or natural resources deficient tend to experience well improved conditions of living.

Underdevelopment is a modern term used to compare the level of development in North America and Western Europe with that of the rest of the world. Seven leading industrial countries that are considered the most developed are United States of America, Japan, Canada, Britain, Germany, France and Italy. Compared to the Western powers, Africa, Asia and Southern America are said to be the continent of underdeveloped or backward countries (Barkindo, 1994).

According to Vinci' (1997), a country is under developed when it has good potential and prospects for using more capital or more labor or more available natural resources or all of these to support its present population or a higher level of living or if its per capital income level is already fairly high to support a larger population on a not lower level of living. The implication is that for a country to be called under — developed, there must be possibilities and potentialities for its development. In other words, an underdeveloped country must have unutilized resources that could be used for increasing the rate of production and thereby raising the level of living of the people. He stressed further that the

basic determinant of under-development is whether there exist potential prospects for development and raising standards of living of the people.

In line with Viner, Eugene (2001) cited in Kutor also defined underdeveloped countries as those that are characterized by (a) general and endemic poverty as against temporary misfortune and (b) outmoded production methodology and social arrangements as the disadvantages associated with poor natural resources endowment could be lessened by modern technology.

Underdeveloped countries are also referred to as the third world. The term was originally used to label countries that are neither aligned with the West nor with the East. Features of these countries include but not limited to the following; political instability or weak political institution, highly dependent economy, poor infrastructural facilities, massive corruption, general poverty, high population, low primary health care, technologically backward low standard of living prone to war and ethnic bureaucratic bottlenecks, prone to natural disasters like food, draughts etc.

It can be also inferred from the opinion of scholars cited above that underdeveloped country is one which is poor but has possibility and prospect of removing poverty and raising living standards of its people through exploitation of its untapped or under-tapped resources.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The paper adopted the dependency theory because it vividly explains how the third world countries including Africa are economically dependent and underdeveloped. Dependency theory emerged due to the shortcomings of modernization framework. The dependency theorist viewed development as a phenomenon that is relative and therefore should be viewed from a historical and dialectical context (Adejoh 2011).

The strength of the theory captures explored issues in development and underdevelopment in Africa while its weakness will be used to analyses the unexplored issues of African underdevelopment.

Major proponents of dependency theory include Paul Baran, Dos Santos Andre (kinder Frank, Samin Amlir Paul Prebish Walter Rodney).

The theory is based on the following basic assumption as its tenets.

1. There is a dialectical relationship between development and underdevelopment. In the words of Gunder Frank (1975), “development and underdevelopment’ are two different sides of a universal historical process. To him, under-development in third world is what brought about development in Europe and America. The lopsided relationship between the technologically advanced countries is at the core of third world underdevelopment.
2. External dependencies lead to an internal structural deformation which perpetuate external dependency, and deformation of economic and social system leads to structural heterogeneity. This situation resulted to undermining the traditional economy and oriented it towards fulfilling external needs of core countries.
3. That underdevelopment and dependency is primarily due to external forces of global capitalism and not the internal policies of the third world. countries. dependency scholars insist that the West is economically, teleologically and politically developed because Third World Countries are undeveloped and exploited by imperial capitalist, and that the transplantation of capitalism to hitherto non-capitalist societies has created economics and policies that are dependent on the West Monetarily, financially, technologically, politically and even spiritually. At political independence, these structures of dependence were transferred to the post-colonial states and this manifest in neo-colonialism (Ezebie, 2015).

Thus, decade after the political independence, most Third World Countries still lack economic freedom as a result of certain colonial structures implanted through agents of foreign and multilateral cooperation, IMP, World Bank, etc. This has rendered the economies dependent.

### **Weaknesses of the Theory**

Critics argue that the theory does not provide adequate empirical evidence to support its conclusion, although the theory considers ties with transnational corporations as being exploitative and as agent of neo colonialism, neglects the potentials of such corporations to bring about development.



Another criticism of the theory is the fact that, it emphasizes so much on history as though the world were static and not dynamic. The dependency theory has also been criticized for utterly de-emphasizing the role of endogenous factors within the Third World and their impact on its underdevelopment while laying much emphasizes on exogenous factors as being responsible (Adejoh, 2011).

### **Explored Issues**

The current Africa's development crisis can only be effectively explained through a consideration of exogenous and endogenous factors at play.

One of the explored issues advanced by scholars as cause of Africa underdevelopment is colonialism. Colonialism resulted to the premature integration of African economies into the global system on unequal terms. through exploitation of the continent natural resources to develop economies of the imperialist. How the international capitalist system helped in under-developing Africa is the main narrative of dependency theorists such as Gunder Frank, Raul Prebisch, Dos Santos and Samir Amin (Ezeibe, 2015). These scholars argued that underdevelopment is not caused by lack of technological know-how or modern institutions but by the exploitation of global capitalism The infiltration of western capital led to what economists called. growth without development or development of underdevelopment.

The dependency school argue that external dependencies lead to internal structural deformation which perpetuate external dependency and rendering Africa underdeveloped. The deformation of economic and social system leads to structure heterogeneity (rich cities and marginal masses) and the destruction of domestic economy oriented towards fulfilling the needs of the metropole. These interactions

destroyed indigenous lifestyle and culture, intensified economic extraction and forced. integration of dependent states into the international division of labour asymmetrically.

The dependency theorist posits centre-periphery relationship and while western countries constitute the centre, Africa and third world constitute the periphery. Underdeveloped countries in this relationship became the producers of primary products and raw materials for the metropolitan industries. Thus, development and underdevelopment are two sides of a coin with a dialectical relationship. Hence, interaction of the two conditions produces each other (Offiong, 1980). Dos Santos (1971 cited Ezeibe, 2015) observed that the industrial technological production of the Third World on the other hand is the basic explanation for underdevelopment. Hence, capitalism and industrial revolution develop the world unevenly.

Arrighi (1973 cited Ezeibe, 2015) correctly observed that unequal exchange between the global core and periphery nations account for the development of the former and underdevelopment of the later. The dependency school of thought believe that underdevelopment is primarily due to external forces of global capitalism and not the internal policies of the Less Developed Countries (LDC) Offiong (1980) stressed that, in dependent economies, the crucial economic and political decision are not made by the countries rather by the foreigners whose interest are carefully safeguarded. This foreignness uses their economic, political and military power to determine the shape and control the activities in the countries they penetrate. These scholars insist that west is economically technologically and politically developed because the Third World Countries are underdeveloped and exploited by imperial capitalists. The transplantation of capitalism to hitherto non- capitalist societies of Africa, Asia and Latin America created economics and policies that are dependent on the west monetarily, financially, technologically, politically and even spiritually. At political independence, these structures of dependence were transferred to the post-colonialism states all this manifests in neo-colonialism (Offiong, 1980).

Rodney (1972) contribution to how Africa is underdeveloped is a significant milestone not just as an exposure but also a work of science in the field of political economy. He argued that underdevelopment of Africa and other Third World Countries was as a result of colonialism, the human capital Africa should have used to develop Africa societies were captured by the colonial masters to labour in the Caribbean Island for the production process like the Portugal, Belgium. He stressed that repatriation of national/raw materials from Africa to the Western Europe, Africa as a continent was used for three purposes — labour — market and Capital. Hence, colonialism came to cut-off the industrial development in the continent. Technological development of Africa was cut-off, thus, lead to Underdevelopment State of Africa.

Nkrumah (1965) sees underdevelopment of Africa from neo-colonial perspective. He argues' that Africa were divided into miniature and not economically viable states by the colonialist. By the time they were granted independence. Instead of total and comprehensive independence, neo-colonial structures were left behind as legacy to the newly independent nations. Thus, resources in Africa were not only plunder by the European powers, there were capital flight He stressed that “to those who safer from colonialism, it is exploitation without redress and for those who practiced it,” it is power without responsibility “. He therefore advocated that for Africa to mere forward, all the miniature nor-economic viable state must be merged so that, their resources could he pulled together.

Furthermore, African countries consistently suffer from trade in balance with the European powers. They pay more for industrial goods than they receive from the developed nations. On the other hand, the sums they receive for their primary products have continued to decline. In order to maintain the trade in balance, the African countries are being forced to borrow more from the developed nations. Eventually the debts have accumulated to such an extent that the debtor countries cannot even pay interests on the loans, let, alone settle the loans themselves. To bail themselves out the debtor countries approach the creditor nations for aid and for the rescheduling of payment of the debts reaching an agreement with the IMF and World Bank is the final stage of a country's entry into neo-colonialism.

Stringent policies are forced on the country concerned, it has to open its economy to those of the Western countries without any restriction, it has to devalue its currency to the extent that this becomes very much weaker than those of the creditor countries. Even the aid given to the under-developed countries helps to worsen their economics. This is because most of such aid is tied to some conditionalities (Barkindo, 1994) sees underdevelopment of Africa from neo-colonialism perspective. Jacob (2007) in the same vein sees globalization and liberalization via IMP and World Bank Multinational Corporation as agents of Africa underdevelopment He toes the same line of Khor (2001) argues that African were economically weak due to lack of domestic economic capacity and weak social infrastructure following colonial experience Africa is underdeveloped and economically weak by low export prices and significant terms of trade decline as well as debt crisis and the burden of debt servicing, the policy conditions attached to rescheduling of debt payment hampered the economic recovery of most of this indebted nations and it has led to further deterioration in their social services. Thus, the views of these scholars have dominated the literature of development and underdevelopment of Africa in the field of political economy for a long period of time. They have explored these historical facts through their various contribution on the unsymbolic relationship that have existed between the centre and periphery. For example, Rodney wrote “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” A.G Frank wrote. “The Development of Underdevelopment Fantz Fenon wrote the Wretched of the Earth, Nkrumah wrote imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism Bade Onirnode wrote Marxist Political Economy Offiong, wrote; “Imperialism and Dependency” etc. However, these scholars emphasize so much on history as though the world were static and not dynamic. They placed more emphasis on the third. world and their impact on its underdevelopment emphasis were aid on exogenous factors as being responsible for the underdevelopment of the Third World. The criticism of the school of thought led to the development of alternative development paradigm in solving crisis of African development. These endogenous factors that have not gained, momentum in the literature of development and under development of Africa can be considered as unexplored.

## Unexplored Issues

There is no doubt that majority of the literature on development argue that Africa underdevelopment as rightly stated above is unilaterally caused by European colonialism arguably, the wind of political independence in Africa. was on by 1940s, 1950 and reached its climax by 60s. After more than four decades of formal ending of European colonization of Africa, the nightmare of hunger, rampant civil wars, backward technology absence of infrastructural facilities, unstable government, poor healthcare delivery system, poor educational scheme, illiteracy and other indices of underdevelopment in Africa (Ezeibe, 2015; Jackson and Madaki, 2014).

Apart from the exogenous factors accounting for Africa's underdevelopment there are equally important endogenous factors which have not gathered momentum in the Lexican of Africa underdevelopment and therefore remain improperly explored. One of the endogenous factors is conception. The entry of theories of corruption, weak democratic institution and lack of confidence have dwindled the colonial legacy framework. The problem of corruption has become intractable in Africa. Today, most African nation-state have been 'independent for more than fifty years.

Unfortunately, at fifty many of these nation state has made either minimal progress or stagnated in term of socio-economic growth and development. Despite the fact that the continent's problems are multifaceted, corruption particularly in countries where it has become an integral part of the social fabric, is a major handicap to their development efforts (Tukur, 2016). The problem of corruption has hampered development struggle in Africa. In September, 2017, for instance, African Union estimated that corruption costs African economies more than US \$148 billion annually. Similarly, the president of World Bank in 2006 estimated that corrupt Nigerian politicians have stolen over US \$300 billion since 1960. Meanwhile, meanwhile, most of the loots from African government treasures are used by politicians to live above their means. Rarely are the loots invested locally (Igwe, 2010) cited in Ezeibe (2015). These lootings rob national. governments of economic development opportunities because, loots from Africa as mainly deposited opportunities in. foreign banks. Corruption perception's index

showed that nearly three quarters of the 178 countries in the index scored below five on a scale from 10 (highly clean) to 0 (highly corrupt). These results indicate a serious corruption problem and by extension undermine development efforts in Africa. The financial resource, involved in these corrupt deals could have been channels into useful project that will help to stimulating growth and development in Africa country.

Furthermore, weak institution in African is used in explaining underdevelopment of Africa. This is also an endogenous factor in explaining the divergence in developed, developing and underdeveloped countries. Increasingly research has shown that weak, missing or perverse institution are the roots of underdevelopment. Other explanations for development, such as technological innovation, investment, or years of schooling are not associated with higher rates of economic growth (Shirley, 2005 cited Kutur, 2016). The vast majority of Africans today live in countries that have failed to create or sustain strong institution to foster exchange and protect persons and property. some countries such as Sudan, Congo, Somalia have extremely weak institutions and enforce most bargains deploying informal mechanisms The state is either too weak to prevent theft of property by private actors or so strong that the state itself theaters properly rights and personal independence. Individuals and organizations face a high risk that they will not be able to realize to retain if they invest in specific knowledge, skills or physical assets, so they reframe from investment production, innovation and productivity are low and economy festers.

Geographical location of the Africa is another factor that accounted Africa's underdevelopment. This factor is endogenous to African because It has nothing 'with external forces, having their influence on the continent, hence its underdevelopment. Most of the African landmass lies within the tropical climate with no access to either the Atlantic or the Indian Ocean. This makes the vast areas of the continent home to malaria including Tsetse fly which affect human and animal respectively. This made some researchers on African underdevelopment including Bhattaeharya to test the hypothesis of malaria as the dominant cause of the underdevelopment in the continent. He stressed further that,

Malta and other tropical diseases have fatal as well as debilitating effects on human population in Africa. It negatively affects productivity, savings and investment in physical and human capital and directly affects economic performance of the continent

Agbo, one of the alternative development paradigm scholars contributed immensely in his book “how Africans under developed Africa” lie argued that underdevelopment of African in the recent time there has been a paradigm shift from exogenous factors to endogenous factors as causes of underdevelopment of the continent. Agbo’s work is a critique of Walter Rodney, the mt argument of the Agbor is that we cannot continue to blame slavery, colonialism and imperialism as responsible for the underdevelopment of Africa. He argued that our future has been placed in our hands long ago blaming Europe as the cause of African underdevelopment in this 20<sup>th</sup> century, more than 50 years after political independence of most African States is like a treating ringworm and leaving leprosy unattended. Agbor argued further that Africans have contributed to the underdevelopment of Africa through selling able bodied men of Africa to colonial masters, borrowing of foreign loans, brain drain wars and conflict, and looting and plundering of limited resources Agho concludes that horror, inhumanity and injustice have been done to Africans by fellow Africans. Africa failure in the present global economic recession to diversity its economics beyond export of basic commodities, its reliance on foreign aid its debt burden is problem of our development which need not stay with us forever. He admits that in this current economic situation of African particularly after political independence.

Achebe (1983) in his contribution through his work “the trouble with Nigeria” argues that underdevelopment of Nigeria and by extension. Africa is no longer located. on the exogenous factors as he nightly advanced in one of his previous books “Things Fall Apart” where he argues then that colonialism thwart development ant tears apart the unity of Africa. However, in the post-colonial African State, five debacles after political independence, colonialism and imperialism could not long be said are factors underling the progress of the continent but the endogenous factors such as bad

leadership, corruption, emphatically, he concluded that, the problem of Nigeria and Africa countries in general is problem of bad leadership.

Political instability, primordial factors such as ethnicity tribalism are another necrogenous factor that had greatly relegated. African countries to the background. Nnamani (2008) observed that Africa drawing companies with countries that started the journey of nationhood at the same time with African and Nigeria in particular such. countries as Indonesia, Singapore, Hongkong these countries have advanced steadily in meeting the needs and aspiration of their people. Hence, what is responsible for underdevelopment of African continent in the recent time is our faulty electoral system and lack of political will the bane of Africa social political and economic development.

Furthermore, ethnicity and ethnic politics is another social phenomenal associated with interaction among members of different ethnic group. By definition ethnic group is a social formation distinguished by the communal character of their boundaries, ethnicity has passed. major problem of African development, each ethnic group beliefs that in. their own superiority of the cultures, superior and projecting the spirit of ethnocentrism over unity in diversity. Conflict therefore exists even at individual sub-group and group levels which take several forms of violence or non-violence the end. result of such conflict whether violent or nonviolent can go to extreme point of a succession and civil war as was the case in Nigeria between 1967 and 1970, and between 1985 and 1998, also in Sudan, Uganda, Ridanda etc (Nnoii, 2009 cited Adesina, 2010) the endogenous factors as rightly mentioned above play dominant role in the recent time than the endogenous ones. The endogenous factors focus attention on how African underdeveloped Africa rather than how Europe underdeveloped Africa and other Third World Countries.

## **Conclusion**

This paper examines development and underdevelopment in Africa with particular reference to explored, and unexplored issues. The study investigates and finds out that slave trade, colonialism,



colonialism are age-long historical event that took place between the Western Europe and Third World Countries and as such responsible for the underdevelopment of Africa. Hence, this argument by the dependency theorist has dominated the literature of development and underdevelopment of Africa in the field of political economy and has remained explored issues.

However, the missing gaps in the explanation of dependency theorists in explaining development and underdevelopment of Africa is that, they focus on exogenous factors without considering the endogenous factors. Thus, the findings of the study reveal that, there is paradigm shift in the study of development and underdevelopment in Africa which place emphasis on endogenous factors as dominant role in the underdevelopment of Africa although, it has not gathered momentum in the literature of political economy. Thus, the study reveals that countries like Singapore Hongkong underwent the same colonial process are today being able to transcend from Third World to First World. It was also discovered that what contributed to the economic miracle of Singapore and Hongkong is entrenchment of good government economic reform qualitative and visionary leadership. Thus, there is a paradigm shift from “how Europe under developed Africa” to “how African underdevelopment Africa in the current literature of development and underdevelopment of Africa”.

The paper concludes that, it will be old fashioned, outdated and unempirical to continue to claim that after more than fifty years of political independence of African States that developed countries are responsible for the underdevelopment of Africa particularly in contemporary time where endogenous factors such as corruption, bad leadership, ethnicity, tribalism, communal conflict, ill-electoral process play dominant role in underdevelopment of the continents, therefore the study ends on the note that African in the recent time under developed Africa.

### **Recommendation**

The paper therefore recommends as follows:

1. Africa should place emphasis on strong institution, this will be a panacea for African development and not having strong political leaders as currently obtains in Africa. Having strong institutions can

help fight all forms of corruption at all levels. This can be achieved through putting in place appropriate anti-corruption and legal machinery, and prosecute without fear and favour.

2. Africa should strategically position herself in the world capitalist system being perpetuated by globalization and its compelling forces. In order for globalization to have positive impact on Africa's development, national government must have the choice to choose among apt monetary, fiscal, trade, macroeconomic and other economic and social policies without — handed intrusion by the developed countries and the mutilation institution these countries control.
3. Third World Countries/Africa should learn from the lesson of Singapore and Hongkong and be less dependent on foreign aid and multinational corporations, they should therefore focus more on economic forms and the entrenchment of good governance particularly in this present global economic recession.
4. Africa and other third world countries must state their vision mid dream for development and advancement as” against backwardness and underdevelopment Africa must take the challenge to develop, their continent as Europeans or America will not do it for them.
5. Finally, Africa must reject corruption, corrupt leaders insisting on honest, dedicated accountable and transparent leaders who can land Africa to development, thereby the challenges of globalization easy.

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