
**THE IMPACT OF NEO-COLONIALISM ON THE UGANDA'S ECONOMY, HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVE 1962- 1980**

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ABSTRACT: This dissertation analyses the role of neocolonialism on Uganda's economy and it examines the foreign political and economic institutions in their historical setting and the way they negotiate with the modern political arrangements under neo - colonial authorities. There has been an attempt by the elite to adopt a conciliatory attitude using the state patronage to make them part and parcel of the contemporary political system. This paper tries to provide some theoretical approaches of the neocolonialism in Uganda, and provide practical strategies to the challenges caused by neocolonialism in Uganda. The data from questionnaires were recorded, edited, and categorized according to the research objectives. The researcher used content analysis, which involved editing transcript of the interviews to be presented in a logical form. The political elites of Uganda should transcend nationalistic ideologies of the state by adopting the ideology of multiculturalism in which every citizen doesn't have to imply a particular cultural identity, to fight for a common goal of national cohesion.

Key words: Neo-colonialism and economy

Background of the study.

Neocolonialism is the practice of using economics, globalization, cultural imperialism and conditional aid to influence a country instead of previous colonial methods of direct military control (imperialism) or indirect political control (hegemony). Neocolonialism typically results in a relationship of dependence, subservience, financial obligations towards the neocolonialist nation (Racheal et al., 2023). This may result in an undue degree of political control, spiral debt obligations, functionally imitating the relationship of the traditional relationship (Ninsiima et al., 2023).

Though African states achieved independence in 1960s, the former colonial powers are still holding their influence. Kwame Nkrumah said "without economic liberty, political liberty totally vain ". During cold war phenomenon, Africa became a pivotal place to the USA and USSR. Throughout the cold war, two super powers were trying to dominate in Africa.

Neocolonialism should be seen as something more than formal occupation and control of territories by western metropole .While formal methods of control like the implementation of administrative structures ,the stationing of military forces, and most importantly the incorporation of the natives as subject of the metropolitan government ,neocolonialism subjects are indirect form of control of former colonies through ruling native elites compliant with neocolonial powers ,population that are exploited for their labour and resources in order to feed an insatiable appetite for finished physical or cultural commodities made by the metropole (Patriot Warrior 2005).

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Statement of the problem.

Though Uganda achieved her independence on 9. Oct.1962, the former colonial power (Britain), and the neoimperialists such as USA and China are still holding their interest, Uganda is adversely affected by neocolonialism. The analysis revealed that the present primary role of Uganda in the international world economy as the source of raw materials and consumer of manufactured products is the result of long year colonial dominance. On attainment of independence, it was extremely very difficult to disentangle from the colonial perfect role for the state because of the systematic disarticulation in the indigenous economy and the intrinsic tying of same with the external economy of the colonizer. Therefore, this study examines the state impact of neocolonialism on Uganda's economy (Matthew & Mike, 2016).

Objectives of the study.

1. To examine the impact of neocolonialism on Uganda's economy.
3. To identify the strategies to mitigate the challenges caused by neocolonialism.

Research questions.

1. Examine the impact of neocolonialism on Uganda's economy.
2. Identify the strategies to mitigate the challenges caused by neocolonialism.

Methodology**Research design.**

A research design is a program that is used to generate to the research problem. According to Aaker et al A (2002) defines a research design as the detailed blue print used to guide a research study towards its objectives. The researcher used a qualitative research design, because my topic of study is more of narrative. Qualitative research design or approach is one whose data is basically descriptive in nature.

Sampling method

The researcher used purposive sampling method, because the sources have the relevant information about the topic. They are believed to have the required information according to the researcher's objectives of the study. Purposive sampling is intentional selection of informants based on their ability to elucidate a specific theme, concept, or phenomenon. The researcher used purposive sampling because it fits his research objectives, and for easier generalization about the sample related to the phenomenon of interest.

Data collection instruments.

The researcher used survey questionnaires. Open and closed - ended questionnaires designed and administered by the researcher to the respondents. The Open - ended items gave chance to respondents to express their views, while the closed ended items limited the respondents to the study objectives. The questionnaires used because they cover a wider scope in a short time.

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Data Analysis.

The data from questionnaires were recorded, edited, and categorized according to the research objectives. The researcher used content analysis, which involved editing transcript of the interviews to be presented in a logical form.

RESULTS**Impacts of neocolonialism on the economy of Uganda**

A respondent (Rosemary) said that Uganda's mass number of natural resources are utilized to develop external western nations such as united states, western European countries, and China rather than the economy of Uganda. She gave the example of Uganda oil. As Uganda exports and provides cheap raw materials to help imperialistic powers industrialize. They simultaneously create spheres of influence while supplying such powers with a market for their expensive finished goods.

Another respondent (Okoth Samson) argues that through neocolonialism, investments by multinational corporations have been established in Uganda. These multinational companies cause humanitarian, environmental and ecological damage to the Ugandan population. He went further and argued that, this results in unsustainable development and perpetual underdevelopment.

Strategies to combat the challenges caused by neo-colonialism.

Economic unity requires re-organizing Uganda to specialize in the production of crops and goods that are most suited for. It also lays ground for unified agriculture, transportation and communication policies (Collins et al., 2023).

Nkrumah's submission however, is in the projection that as dangerous as neo-colonialism is to the future of Africa, it would eventually like colonialism, be defeated by the unity of all those who are being oppressed and exploited. He prescribes unity and awareness amongst all Africans.

The quest for a unified Africa to eradicate the continent of the ills of neo-colonialism that Nkrumah passionately writes about in 1965 begs the question, how successful have national and continental economic planning initiatives such as the African Development Bank (ADB) been in the 21st century (Frank et al., 2023). Do organization such as the African Union exemplify Nkrumah's hopes of a politically unified continent? For the most parts, large scale attempts at economic and political unification in Africa failed in modern times due to an insistence on implanting policies according to western ideologies and notions of development rather than philosophies that benefit Africa.

According to the notion of Amechi Okolo, the interdependence of the state system wherever it perpetuates the process and capacity to appreciate the concept of balance of power through domination and subjugation of weaker states in the international economic order. This perpetuates capital out flow, economic backwardness and underdevelopment of African states

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A respondent (Marion) argues that careful national planning and investing. With country's interest in mind will make Uganda the master of her own destiny. The respondent went further and made a prescription on political unity as a concept that must go hand in hand with the economic unity.

When Uganda becomes economically free and politically united with other African countries a new struggle will arise within the liquidation and collapse of the imperialism will be complete.

It is questioned if wealthy nations can still help out low-income nations with these hardships without increasing or bringing back dependency that was once had over them.

Raymond Crist (1987) suggests that, more subsidies need to be given to local farmers because it will feed the local population, creates jobs to local farmers and make food cheaper to get.

Fanon (1962, 102) suggests violence as a means of liberating Africans from decolonization. True liberation according to Fanon must be accompanied by violence; his submission is that for liberation to be total, accurate and objectively achieved, it has to be accompanied by violence. Violence plays a critical role in the decolonization struggle. Therefore, borrowing the idea of Fanon, violence must be seen in the neo-colonized countries as that which leads not to retrogression, but liberation. Decolonization involves the struggle mental evolution of the African people. Fanon contends that Africa is in need of true liberation which can only result from decolonization. In his submission resisting neo-colonial powers using only politics cannot be effective. Violence is the best way to attain decolonization.

Wa Thiong'o in his thinking believes that decolonization can only take place in Africa when the cultural bomb is diffused. This process begins when the writing is done in various African languages. Such writings which would enhance the renaissance of African culture, must also carry with it the spirits and contents of anti-neo-colonialism struggle. This would ultimately help in liberating the mind of people from foreign control (Wa Thiong'o 1986, 29). For total liberation to occur Wa Thiong'o enjoins writers in African languages to form a revolutionary vanguard in the struggle for decolonization of the mind of Africans from imperialism.

Conclusion

As a theme of African philosophy, the term neocolonialism became widespread in use particularly in reference to Africa. The widespread use of the term neocolonialism began when Africans realized that even after the independence their countries were still being subjected to a new form of colonialism. The challenges that neocolonialism poses to Africa seem to be related to the socioeconomic, cultural, and political development of the people and States of the continent. These challenges have, however, been attributed both positive and negative impacts on the continent.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made basing on the study findings:

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(i) The government of Uganda should adopt the policy of import substitution industrialization strategy. This entails production, setting up labour intensive industries, which aim at having economic growth from within. This promotes self-reliance and attain economic freedom.

(ii) The political elites of Uganda should transcend nationalistic ideologies of the state by adopting the ideology of multiculturalism in which every citizen doesn't have to imply a particular cultural identity, to fight for a common goal of national cohesion.

(iii) The government of Uganda should create a decentralized federal with a high degree of local autonomy for dissenting ethnic groups. The Federal structure of power sharing conforms to the nationalistic promise of the right of self-determination.

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