

The Effect of State Corruption and Neo-Patrimonialism on the Political Development: Reassessing Uganda's Revolutionary Politics

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Abstract: From the face value, there seems to be progressive political maturity in a country with a history of wars, holding regular and 'free and fair' elections (term after term) guided by jurisprudence and with economic growth indicating an incremental trend. Experts are in fact sometimes persuaded to believe that, such countries as Uganda are in constant political growth. There underlies sophisticated (not-ease-to-see) political processes compounded by neo-patrimonial revolutionaries and corruption sugarcoated in the modern universal political systems such as democracy.

In most scenarios, when scholarly debates on bad governance and mal-democratic practices in Uganda emerge, majority of scholars cluster around lack of governmental capacity, the role of international community in shaping political order, poor economic capacity, or even at worst 'crush of civilization' discourses that dominate the scope of the argumentation.

In this article, I attempt to give necessary attention to the causal explanations as well as damaging effect of state corruption and patriarchy on the ordering of politics. Bringing corruption analysis in the study of governance and regime consolidation could yield surprisingly interesting results in the shaping of peace and security in the nations with similar political characteristics. Corruption is not just an emphasis on the legalities *per se*, but includes dynamics that shape the political opportunity for state control in which neo-patrimonial political systems consolidate and retain power. Therefore, while discussing conflict and security, corruption analysis must provoke interest not just as a trivial aspect in development and security studies.

Also in this article I analyze, the *clientelization* of national politics and economics. Whereas these aspects of political processes seem to be of great importance, analysts have opted to bear no interest.

Key words: *State Corruption, Patrimonial politics, Peace and Security, Uganda*