

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58693

Title: Ruling Class Domination and Lumpen Proletariat Marginality: Political Economy of Development in Africa

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript titled “**Ruling Class Domination and Lumpen Proletariat Marginality: Political Economy of Development in Africa**” addresses an important and relevant issue in African political economy by examining the relationship between ruling-class domination and the marginalization of the lumpen proletariat, with particular focus on Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. The title is appropriate and reflects the central theme of the study; however, the scope is broad and the authors should clearly define the geographical, conceptual, and temporal boundaries of the research. The abstract provides a reasonable summary of the objectives, theoretical perspectives, methodology, findings, and recommendations, but the authors should state the research gap, methodological procedure, and original contribution more explicitly. The introduction provides useful background on postcolonial political economy, class relations, urbanization, informal employment, and elite domination, and the research question is clearly stated; nevertheless, the manuscript needs a stronger and more clearly articulated research gap demonstrating how the study advances existing literature. The theoretical framework based on Marxist Political Economy and Dependency Theory is relevant and provides a useful basis for understanding class domination, external dependency, patronage, and marginalization, but the discussion is largely descriptive and should be strengthened by developing a clear conceptual framework that explicitly connects the theoretical constructs with the empirical analysis. The methodology identifies a qualitative comparative research design using documentary analysis and thematic analysis, which is appropriate for

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the research objective; however, the authors should provide greater detail regarding the search strategy, sources consulted, inclusion and exclusion criteria, number of documents analyzed, period covered, coding procedure, and justification for selecting Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. The findings are organized around the structure of the ruling class, modes of accumulation, external dependence, expansion of the lumpen class, and country-level case studies, and the tables provide useful comparative information; nevertheless, several quantitative and empirical claims require precise and verifiable citations, including the figures relating to informal employment, youth unemployment, and urbanization. The comparative case studies constitute a potentially strong component of the manuscript, but the analysis remains predominantly descriptive and should be strengthened through systematic comparison using common indicators such as elite domination, marginalization, political mobilization, external dependency, institutional consequences, and development outcomes. The discussion identifies important issues such as instrumentalization of marginality, patronage, dependency, governance weaknesses, and developmental consequences, but it tends to repeat the findings rather than critically engaging with previous scholarship; therefore, the authors should explain more clearly whether their findings confirm, challenge, or extend existing theoretical and empirical studies. The recommendations concerning employment generation, skills development, institutional reform, urban governance, electoral reform, and regional cooperation are relevant, but they should be more directly linked to the empirical findings and supported by the study's evidence. The limitations associated with the exclusive use of secondary data, potential source bias, limited generalizability, and the conceptual difficulty of applying the term "lumpen proletariat" to diverse marginalized populations should also be discussed more critically. Finally, the references, tables, citations, grammar, terminology, and formatting require careful revision and consistency checking. Overall, the manuscript addresses a significant topic and has potential academic value, particularly through its comparative focus and integration of Marxist Political Economy and Dependency Theory; however, substantial revisions are necessary to strengthen the research gap, theoretical integration, methodological transparency, empirical evidence, comparative analysis, originality, and scholarly presentation. **The manuscript is therefore recommended for Major Revision before it can be considered for publication.**