

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-130

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Overall Evaluation

The manuscript titled “Ruling Class Domination and Lumpen Proletariat Marginality: Political Economy of Development in Africa” examines the relationship between Africa's ruling class and the lumpen proletariat within the framework of Marxist Political Economy, Dependency Theory, and postcolonial state theory. The study uses a qualitative comparative approach focusing on Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa to explain how elite domination and social marginalization influence governance and development outcomes. The topic is timely, relevant, and contributes to debates in political economy, development studies, and African governance. The manuscript demonstrates a good understanding of theoretical perspectives and presents useful comparative insights. However, the study would benefit from stronger methodological rigor, clearer empirical evidence, deeper comparative analysis, and improved presentation. Therefore, the manuscript is suitable for publication after major revisions.

Strengths

1. Relevance and Importance of the Topic - The study addresses a significant issue in African political economy by examining the interaction between elite domination and the marginalization of vulnerable populations. The discussion has both academic and policy relevance.

2. Strong Theoretical Foundation - The manuscript effectively employs Marxist Political Economy and Dependency Theory to explain both internal class relations and external economic dependence. The integration of these theories provides a strong conceptual framework for understanding governance and development challenges in Africa.

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3. Comparative Case Study Approach - The selection of Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa offers useful comparative perspectives. The study successfully highlights similarities and differences in elite-lumpen relationships across diverse political and economic contexts.

4. Clear Organization - The paper follows a logical structure, including introduction, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion, conclusion, and recommendations, making it easy to follow.

5. Practical Policy Recommendations - The recommendations regarding youth employment, institutional reforms, urban governance, electoral integrity, and regional cooperation are practical and relevant to the issues discussed.

Areas for Improvement

1. Research Gap Needs Stronger Justification - Although the introduction provides extensive background information, the specific research gap is not clearly identified. The manuscript should explicitly state how it differs from previous studies and what new contribution it makes to the literature.

2. Methodology Requires More Detail - The study mentions the use of documentary analysis and thematic analysis; however, the process of selecting, screening, and analyzing sources is not sufficiently explained. Additional information regarding data sources, inclusion criteria, coding procedures, and analytical steps would improve the credibility of the study.

3. Conceptual Clarity - The concept of the lumpen proletariat is central to the study but remains broad. The manuscript should clearly distinguish this group from informal workers, unemployed youth, and other marginalized populations to improve conceptual precision.

4. Empirical Evidence Should Be Strengthened - Several arguments rely on descriptive discussion rather than robust empirical evidence. More recent statistics, official reports, and supporting data would strengthen the findings and improve the reliability of conclusions.

5. Comparative Analysis Can Be Deepened - While the country case studies are informative, the discussion should provide more direct comparisons among Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa to highlight similarities, differences, and contextual factors influencing outcomes.

6. Tables and Data Presentation - Some tables contain broad classifications and require clearer explanations, updated statistics, and detailed source citations. Including years and measurement indicators would improve transparency.

7. Language and Formatting - The manuscript contains minor grammatical, typographical, and formatting inconsistencies. A thorough language review would improve readability and presentation quality.