

Extractive Economies and Conflicts in the Global South: A Long Tail Title

Extractive industries, such as mining, oil and gas extraction, and logging, play a significant role in the economies of many countries in the Global South. These industries can provide revenue for governments, create employment, and contribute to economic growth. However, extractive economies can also have negative consequences, including environmental degradation, human rights abuses, and conflicts.

In this article, we will explore the complex relationship between extractive economies and conflicts in the Global South. We will examine the historical and contemporary factors that have contributed to conflicts, the negative impacts on communities and the environment, and the role of international actors in addressing these issues.

Conflicts over extractive resources have a long history in the Global South. In many cases, these conflicts have been rooted in the colonial era, when European powers established extractive industries in their colonies. The exploitation of these resources often benefited the colonizers while dispossessing local communities of their land and livelihoods.



Extractive Economies and Conflicts in the Global South: Multi-Regional Perspectives on Rentier Politics

by Paul Kelly

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In the post-colonial era, conflicts over extractive resources have continued to occur. These conflicts have been fueled by a number of factors, including:

- **Competition for scarce resources:** As the demand for natural resources has increased, competition for these resources has intensified. This competition has led to conflicts between governments, communities, and businesses.
- **Government corruption and mismanagement:** Corruption and mismanagement of extractive resources can exacerbate conflicts. When governments fail to regulate the extractive industry effectively, it can create opportunities for illegal activities, such as smuggling and money laundering. This can lead to increased violence and instability.
- **Lack of local participation:** When local communities are not consulted or involved in decision-making about extractive projects, it can lead to resentment and conflict. Communities may feel that they are not benefiting from the extraction of their resources, and they may be concerned about the negative impacts of these projects on their environment and livelihoods.

- **International arms trade:** The availability of weapons from international arms dealers can fuel conflicts over extractive resources. Weapons can be used to protect mining sites, intimidate local communities, and suppress dissent.

Extractive economies can have a number of negative impacts on communities and the environment. These impacts include:

- **Environmental degradation:** Extractive industries can cause significant environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and soil erosion. These impacts can have a devastating impact on local communities, as they can damage crops, livestock, and water sources.
- **Human rights abuses:** Extractive industries can also lead to human rights abuses, such as forced evictions, arbitrary arrests, and violence. These abuses are often committed by security forces or private security companies that are hired to protect extractive projects.
- **Economic displacement:** Extractive industries can also lead to economic displacement, as communities are forced to relocate to make way for mining or logging operations. This can disrupt livelihoods and lead to poverty.

International actors can play a role in addressing conflicts over extractive resources in the Global South. These actors include governments, international organizations, and NGOs.

Governments can play a role by:

- **Promoting transparency and accountability:** Governments can help to prevent conflicts by promoting transparency and accountability in the extractive industry. This includes requiring companies to disclose their payments to governments, and establishing independent monitoring mechanisms to oversee extractive projects.
- **Supporting local communities:** Governments can also support local communities by providing them with information about their rights and by helping them to participate in decision-making about extractive projects.
- **Providing security:** Governments can also provide security to protect local communities from violence and intimidation. This can involve deploying security forces to mining sites or working with local communities to establish community-based security initiatives.

International organizations can play a role by:

- **Providing financial and technical assistance:** International organizations can provide financial and technical assistance to governments and local communities to help them address the challenges of extractive industries. This assistance can include funding for environmental protection, human rights monitoring, and community development projects.
- **Advocating for change:** International organizations can also advocate for change at the international level. They can pressure governments and companies to adopt policies that promote transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights in the extractive industry.

NGOs can play a role by:

- **Raising awareness:** NGOs can raise awareness about the negative impacts of extractive industries and advocate for change. They can also provide support to local communities that are affected by extractive projects.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** NGOs can also monitor and report on the activities of extractive companies. This information can be used to hold companies accountable for their actions and to pressure governments to take action.

Extractive economies can have a number of negative consequences, including environmental degradation, human rights abuses, and conflicts. These consequences are often borne by local communities, who are often marginalized and powerless.

International actors can play a role in addressing conflicts over extractive resources in the Global South. They can do this by promoting transparency and accountability, supporting local communities, and providing security. They can also advocate for change at the international level.

By working together, governments, international organizations, and NGOs can help to create a more just and sustainable future for communities affected by extractive industries.

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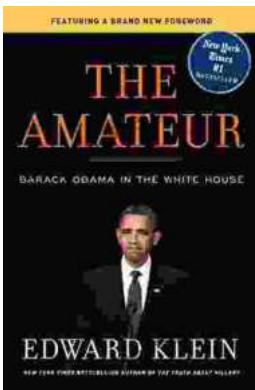
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