

COMPATIBLE CULTURAL DEMOCRACY AND INDIGENOUS POLITICAL SYSTEMS

SHEREEN WORRELL
LAPS/SOSC 2480

RESEARCH QUESTION:

Is a mixed system of liberal democracy and indigenous chieftaincy a recipe for a successful political system?

ABSTRACT

This project looks at hybrid political systems (HPS) in Africa and compares this concept to Osabu-kle's characteristics of a modified indigenous political system. It identifies whether or not there is a functioning and similar system in Africa and how. It also looks at the theoretical work behind HPS, why they are necessary and what are the potential problems that arise in the process. There are two case studies looking at Buganda and Botswana. According to the research, a vast range of factors affects the success of a HPS including whether it is a nation-state or state-nation, the history, and the number of ethnic groups residing within the state.

KEY TERMS

Hybridity, Democracy, Chieftaincy, Nation-States, State-Nations, Consensualism, and Communalism

METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative Data,
- Case Studies,
- Theoretical Analyses:
 - Hybrid Systems, and
 - Modified Indigenous Systems

CONCEPTS

Concordant institutional multiplicity when the roles of traditional institutions and the state are different

Discordant institutional multiplicity when there is an overlap between the role of traditional authorities and the state OR when traditional authorities seek to perform roles that the state claims to have exclusive rights to

Crippled Hybrid Political System system that does not have effective democracy or traditional governance because both are undermined by one another

CASE STUDIES

BUGANDA

- Discordant institutions not hybridity
- State-nation due to colonialism
- Buganda chiefs given rights by government to participate in the administration of the state
 - Kingdom institutions mimicked functions of the government and led to conflicting institutional multiplicity
 - Traditional authorities were marginalized with the implementation of a federalist system that ignored ethnicity, cultural distinctions, and more

BOTSWANA

- Balanced traditional leadership and formal government
- Community participation (**Therisanyo**)
- Characteristics resemble HPS
- Indigenous political institutions remained
 - Liberal democracy that does not undermine traditional origins
 - Democracy not hindered by functions of traditional authorities

RESULTS

The Hybrid Political System (HPS) in Buganda is a failed system due to an abundance of discordant institutions and the failed implementation process that lacked sufficient integration. The Hybrid Political System (HPS) in Botswana is a successful system and closely resembles Osabu-kle's characteristics of a modified indigenous political system. However, there are two characteristics that slightly differ:

- Botswana uses political parties (goes against third characteristics)
- Political leaders have not been rotated on a regular basis

FUTURE CASE STUDIES:

- Countries considered hybrid regimes including Morocco, Chad, Congo, Tanzania, and more.
- Countries that have attempted to implement hybrid political systems but are considered fully democratic including Libya, Egypt, Niger, Ghana, and More.

