

Summary of Doctoral Dissertation	
論文題目	The politics of resource governance in a neoliberal age: an exposition of the operations of multinational corporations and their impact on natural resource governance in Sub-Saharan Africa. A case study of post-war Sierra Leone.
氏名	Wusu Conteh
<p>The research explicated the conditions under which the operations of multinational corporations (MNCs) engender natural resource governance (NRG) challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), despite the adoption of several global NRG standards in a neoliberal age. Post-war Sierra Leone was utilised as a case study. Since the 1980s, neoliberal free-market policies have accelerated MNCs' acquisition of extraction rights in the Global South. The governments of resource-rich countries have liberalised their mining and petroleum sectors under the aegis of international financial institutions (IFIs). At the end of the Cold War, several global NRG standards were introduced to strengthen several global NRG standards were introduced to enhance effective resource governance. However, although resource-rich countries in SSA have introduced governance standards like the UN Global Compact, Kimberly Process Certification Scheme, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, several countries are trapped in what is dubbed as the resource curse. Existing scholarly works have linked the resource curse to host country actors' and institutional patterns and behaviours.</p> <p>However, a paucity of studies explained the conditions under which MNCs' operations stimulate resource governance challenges. Thus, the research argues that the operations of MNCs engendered corruption and patronage, tax evasion and avoidance, limited contract transparency and accountability, and human rights abuses in SSA. The research further unravelled how the neoliberal market-centred approach precipitated the resource curse. It was revealed that neoliberalism and its drivers (MNCs and IFIs) contribute to the resource curse in limited growth, conflict, and inequality. Within the NRG standards, the EITI is one of the dominant global standards that attracts a wide array of recognition from both the public and private sectors. While the EITI has made more data available at the national level, it was found that the initiative is not viable in promoting revenue transparency and accountability in Sierra Leone. This is primarily related to the dominant nature of government, the convoluted relations among the multistakeholder groups, its central character, and the elite capture of rents.</p> <p>The research develops a conceptual framework of the resource politics of dominance. This concept illustrates the complexity and idiosyncrasies of external entities' influence, control, and power, which challenge resource governance. External entities such as MNCs, IFIs, politically affiliated businessmen, and powerful home countries have enormous power in the resource sector's decision chain, particularly in developing countries. The study adopted a triangulation approach, relying heavily on primary qualitative data acquired through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The utilisation of</p>	

triangulation as a methodological approach and resource politics of dominance as a conceptual approach are essential sources of originality in the study.

The dissertation consists of nine chapters. The first chapter provides background information on the research. The second chapter offers a critical and detailed examination of scholarly arguments on neoliberalism and the resource curse. Chapter three describes the research design and methodology. The research topic was explored utilising triangulation, coding, and thematic analysis. Chapter four looks at the conceptual framework of resource politics of dominance and its implication for extractive governance in SSA. Chapter five investigates the conditions under which the operations of MNCs engender NRG challenges in SSA. Chapter six explores non-state entities and NRG challenges in Sierra Leone. Chapter seven interrogates the global resource governance standards. Chapter eight examines the effectiveness of the EITI on subnational revenue transparency and accountability in Sierra Leone. The final chapter summarises the findings and suggests future research directions in the field of NRG and global resource standards.