



Rafael Correa's Failed Vision of Development Prosperity

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Abstract

In 2007, a new progressive government led by Rafael Correa was elected to power in Ecuador. The presidency of Correa had constituted debates coming from social movement groups arguing against the extraction of natural resources. The exploitation of natural resources in the Amazon region became a large component in Correa's administration and vision for development (Riofrancos, 2020, p.5). The idea to extract resources such as oil was viewed as a way to eradicate poverty and inequality. Correa justified resource extractions as means to generate state revenues for economic prosperity. The intensive form of extraction of resources was framed as the extractive development model. However, social movement groups, specifically indigenous movement groups have argued against the extractive development model. The resistance against extractivism is generated from years of protest against neoliberal practices promoting the exploitation of natural resources (Riofrancos, 2020, p.5). The fundamental purpose of the paper is to examine how Correa's extractive model failed to generate development for Ecuador. Additionally, the paper identifies conflicts over land rights and the contradictions of the Constitution violating the rights of indigenous territories. The paper argues that the extractive model creates an unsustainable economy, generates ecological damages, and results in the displacements of indigenous communities.

Methods and Materials

To examine the extractive model under the presidency of Correa, this research analyzes secondary data. This form of data consists of scholarly articles relevant to the topic sourced from credible websites such as jstor, which is a digital library of academic journals, books, and secondary sources. The scholarly articles and books were also collected from the York Omni. As the research focused on Ecuador and was specific to the study of Latin America, other secondary data were collected from Latin American Perspectives and the Journal of Latin American Studies. The criteria used to select the material relied on the data range. This was to ensure that the articles were relevant to the research question and focused on relevant events which occurred in 2007-2017.

Research Question

Does the push towards the extractive development model under the leftist government of Correa possess the capability to liberate Ecuador's underdevelopment, or does this model further the expansion of western neoliberal practices in exploiting indigenous territories?

Results

1. The extractive development model fails to overcome the practice of neoliberalism as Correa's administration integrates the capitalization of natural resources and privatization of land.
2. The dependency on primary commodities to generate state revenue presents an unsustainable development for Ecuador. This is due to the price fluctuation in natural resources such as oil.
3. The extractive model has generated ecological damages as it largely affected indigenous communities as oil and mining projects required the usage of land. This constituted environmental problems such as pollution and water contamination while furthering inequalities in indigenous communities.



Figure 1. Check References.

Discussion

The research finding suggests that the extractive development model is significantly based on a neoliberal framework, rather than a post-neoliberal agenda. It should be noted that a post-neoliberal agenda is a rejection against neoliberalism, which aims to capitalize on natural resources for profit returns.

The neoliberal agenda reflects the majority of Correa's policies for development surrounding the exploitation of natural resources. As a result of this, indigenous social movement groups have argued for a more post-neoliberal agenda and policies protecting the indigenous territories and the environment.

Conclusions

From this research, it is evident that Correa's vision for development fails because of the extractive model, which constituted environmental damages in indigenous communities. It is important to note that economic prosperity cannot be achieved without the protection of the environment and indigenous territories.



Figure 2. Check References.

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References

1. Flag of Ecuador Images - <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/40669a52-041a-4a56-b9a8-a536ea1d00d7>
2. Figure #1 - <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/816bf0f8-c93f-4a00-8d3e-680293b5e76a>
3. Figure #2 - <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/07164b08-b455-4f98-9603-4f9ceb20a82d>
4. For more references related to Paper + Poster – please email the presenter