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European Union and democratization of Africa: the case of Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Morocco (1990-2010)

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European Union and Democratization of Africa: The case of Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Morocco (1990-2010)

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A research report submitted to the School of Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Degree of Master of Arts in International Relations by coursework and research report.

ABSTRACT

In the early 1990s, issues of democracy, good governance, security and human rights became more prominent in the international system and attained space in various policy documents. The period has been characterized by massive waves of transitions from one-party to multi-party political systems, which can be described as global democratic revolutions. Such democratic revolutions or movement towards democracy was not confined to one territory; rather it was a worldwide phenomenon that reached many parts of the world such as Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. It involved radical political transitions due to pressure to promote political liberalization and foster democratic reforms in most of these countries. The push for democratization was led by various democratic actors such as the European Union, United States of America, Britain, Norway, Canada and institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank among others. The waves and calls for democratization by these actors have resulted in various democratic transition outcomes in which some of the recipient countries of external democratic support are left stuck in the process while some of them have completely failed and reverted back to authoritarian or oppressive regimes. Countries that have failed in the democratization process experience various consequences such as limited access to the media, fragmented opposition political parties, fraudulent electoral activities, violence and poor citizen participation. These shortfalls reflect gaps or inconsistencies in the outcomes of the democratization process that needs to be investigated. This study looks at the factors causing inconsistencies in the outcomes of the process.

KEY WORDS: Democratisation, transition process, successful transition, democratic development, democracy promotion, sustainable development.

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DECLARATION

I, Never Chirisa, hereby declare that this research report, submitted to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg for the purposes of attaining the Master of Arts degree in International Relations is my own work. It has not been formally submitted for any other degree or examination at any other University for degree purposes.

Signed by……..

Signature……..

…… Day of March 2015

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACTV: African Centre for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture of Victims

BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation

CAR: Central African Republic

CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency

CNN: Cable News Network

CPA: Cotonou Partnership Agreement

CSO: Civil Society Organizations

CSCBP: Civil Society Capacity Building Program

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

DV: Dependent Variable

EBA: Everything But Arms

EC: European Commission

EBRD: European Bank for Reconstruction

EDF: European Development Fund

EEAS: European External Action Service

EHEDOC: Ugandan Human Rights Education and Documentation Centre

EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

EPA: Economic Partnership Agreement

ENP: European Neighbourhood Policy

EOM: Election Observer Mission

EU: European Union

EUFSP: European Union Foreign and Security Policy

GNU: Government of National Unity

GSP: Generalised System of Preferences

IAP: Independent Arbitration Panel

ID: Independent Variable

IDEG: Institute for Democratic Governance

IEA: Institute of Economic Affairs

IEPA: Interim Partnership Agreement

IPAC: Inter-Party Advisory Committee

IMF: International Monetary Fund

KAS: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

MDC: Movement for Democratic Change

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NCA: National Constitutional Assembly

NDC: National Democratic Congress

NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations

NPP: New Patriotic Party

NRM: National Resistance Movement

ODA: Official Development Assistance

PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party

PJD: Islamist Justice and Development Party

PNDC: Provisional National Defence Council

POSA: Public Order and Security Act

RNI: National Rally of Independence

SABC: South African Broadcasting Corporation

SADC: Southern African Development Community

TRC: Truth and Reconciliation Commission

UFP: United Front Party

UHRC: Ugandan Human Rights Commission

USA: United States of America

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Force

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

ZANU PF: Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Fund.

ZCTU: Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

ZLHR: Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

ZDHR: Zimbabwe Doctors for Human Rights

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