

Democracy and Development: A Critical Reassessment of the Relationship**Yusuf Abubakar Wara, Ph.D.**

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The relationship between democracy and development has been one of the major topics of discussion in developmental studies for several decades. Despite this extensive discussion and analysis, consensus on the nexus between the duo remains elusive among contemporary political scientists. This paper critically reassesses the democracy-development connection by examining empirical evidence and causal mechanisms linking the type of political system to developmental outcomes. The study adopts a systematic literature review, drawing on case studies from selected countries. The findings show that the relationship is neither linear nor unidirectional; rather, it is conditional upon institutional quality and state capacity. The paper advances the literature on the nuanced analysis of when and how democracy facilitates or constrains development in the contemporary world.

Keywords: Democracy, Development, Relationship, Institutional Quality, State Capacity