

# The Interplay of Historical foundations, Resource Dynamics, and Ideological Frameworks in the Shaping of Tanzania's Foreign Policy Landscape: Practicability of the Dependency theory

## Abstract

This article analyzes three key variables - ideology, history, and resources - to get a deeper insight into the intricate dynamics shaping Tanzania's foreign policy. The research examines how the country's diplomatic environment is influenced by resource considerations, historical legacies, and ideological shifts within the framework of dependence theory.

The findings from the survey show various perspectives on the influence of history, which is consistent with the emphasis of dependence theory on historical variables shaping foreign policy. The examination of resource contributions emphasizes the pressing necessity for policy reform, endorsing the suggestion of dependence theory for strategic resource utilization to reduce external constraints. Tanzania's strategic focus on developing economic partnerships outside of Western markets is evident in its ideological aspect. This is in line with the suggestion of dependency theory to reduce reliance on a certain set of trading partners in order to enhance the country's ability to navigate changing global economic trends.

Key Informant Interviews support the study's theoretical framework and demonstrate the ongoing influence of historical personalities such as Julius Nyerere on Tanzania's foreign policy. The study's findings resulted in three significant recommendations. To establish diplomatic partnerships that honour past legacies while adapting to current geopolitical circumstances, it is advisable to take a sophisticated approach to historical connections. Implementing thorough policy change is recommended to strategically protect and utilize national resources in global contexts. Finally, it is recommended to take a proactive approach to diverse economic relationships in alignment with the broader pan-African objective of reducing dependence on specific trade partners. valuable guidance for decision-makers navigating the complex process of developing foreign policy.

Key words: *Foreign policy, leadership, Resource Dynamics, dependency theory*

## **Introduction**

Formulating a foreign policy involves addressing many significant challenges to effectively interact with the global community, taking into account external and internal elements influencing decision-making (Müller et al., 2021). Thoroughly assessing historical legacies is crucial for nations as they draw on past experiences to shape present and future diplomatic efforts, whether at substate or national and federal levels, as seen in the example of Belgian Flemish and Belgian Wallonia (Criekemans, 2010). Using economic and geopolitical resources wisely is crucial in shaping policy direction (van der Ploeg & Rohner, 2012). Ideological foundations contribute additional complexity by assisting governments in aligning their foreign policy with their core beliefs (Peters, 2017). This comprehensive approach, including ideology, history, and resources, is the foundation of well-crafted foreign policy for all nations.

The study addresses the challenges faced by countries in developing foreign policy strategies. The research explores many features within the framework of dependence theory in international relations, focusing on historical, resource-driven, and ideological variables' interplay (Dawson et al., 2017; Ugarriza & Craig, 2013). The research elucidates the interconnection of global systems through the analysis of resource dependence, historical legacies, and ideological impacts. The findings, focusing on Tanzania, have broader implications for countries globally and contribute to academic scholarship. The study provides insights for creating more practical and effective foreign policy strategies by considering the intricate linkages shaped by dependence theory (Agbebi & Virtanen, 2017a). The research offers educated and balanced guidance to nations seeking to participate in the intricate realm of international relations by fostering a thorough comprehension of these elements.

## **Literature Review**

The United States, as a significant global influence, strategically shapes its foreign policy based on its extensive historical background, abundant resources, and diverse ideological frameworks (O'Connor & Cooper, 2021). The country utilizes its abundant historical history and past diplomatic experiences to inform its present policy. Its significant financial resources allow for many activities, including as foreign aid and trade collaborations. The United States' worldwide position is influenced by a multifaceted combination of historical, resource-based, and ideological variables that collectively determine its diplomatic strategy (Clarke & Ricketts, 2017). American ideals development, foreign trade promotion, invasion prevention, and ensuring the safety of American nationals abroad are interconnected objectives. Emphasizing protection underscores the primary responsibility of border security (Clarke & Ricketts, 2017; Wiseman, 2019). Promoting international commerce proactively also bolsters economic development, which is crucial for domestic expansion. Committing to safeguarding American citizens overseas demonstrates a sense of responsibility that goes beyond national borders (Adriani, 2018). The aims navigate U.S. foreign policy by carefully balancing economic interests, national security, and the global promotion of universal principles.

Germany's foreign policy is profoundly rooted in its dedication to multilateralism, economic might, and historical consciousness (Wojczewski, 2022). Germany's identity is significantly influenced by its history, particularly the period after World War II, and it prioritizes collaboration and healing relationships. Germany's robust industrial foundation and export-driven economy are key factors influencing its foreign alliances (Wenzelburger&Böller, 2020). Its strategy is characterized by a strong commitment to European integration and diplomacy. Germany's strategic posture is founded on a combination of historical consciousness, economic practicality, and dedication to common European principles (Müller et al., 2021; Pänke, 2019). Germany can effectively address global difficulties while upholding a consistent foreign policy agenda.

China's foreign policy is grounded in a unique ideological framework, a strong historical narrative, and economic vitality (Agbebi& Virtanen, 2017a; Bu, 2015). China emphasizes its long-standing culture and seeks to regain its historical importance by utilizing a wealth of historical heritage. China wields significant economic influence because of its efforts in international commerce and rapid growth (Gamso& Moffett, 2023). China showcases its unique ideology internationally through its commitment to non-interventionist policies and socialist values. China's foreign policy is influenced by a strategic effort to redefine its position in the global stage, drawing on historical pride, economic might, and a unique ideological position (Dhar & Mutalib, 2020).

Formulating a foreign policy for undeveloped African states is a challenging task filled with several obstacles (Neethling, 2017). These countries' diplomatic policies are firmly rooted in the historical legacies of colonialism. Ghana's foreign policy has to include its historical ties and heritage stemming from its history under British colonial authority (Agyiriwaa Asiedu & Syed Murshed Lorenzo Pellegrini, 2017). The Democratic Republic of Congo, once under Belgian administration, faces challenges in addressing historical injustices and developing a foreign policy that aligns with its aspirations for a post-colonial era (Mansoob Murshed &ZulfanTadjoeddin, 2009). Ethiopia, which fought Italian colonization, faces challenges with historical narratives impacting its current diplomacy (Haruna & Abdul Salam, 2021). The ability of these states to have a global influence is also limited by economic restrictions. Their constrained financial resources hinder their capacity to participate in global development projects, pursue robust diplomatic actions, and provide resources to soft power methods (Agyiriwaa Asiedu & Syed Murshed Lorenzo Pellegrini, 2017; Gonzalez-Vicente, 2017). Malawi's foreign policy decisions must overcome resource limits due to its economic issues.

Ideological frameworks complicate international interactions further. Nations contend with conflicting belief systems, differing political philosophies, and the impact of significant global ideological forces within the sphere of ideologies (Ugarriza& Craig, 2013). Developing a foreign policy that manages these difficulties while maintaining fundamental national ideals necessitates a careful balance (O'Connor & Cooper, 2021). Despite facing ideological challenges, it is crucial for growing African states to have a well-thought-out foreign policy in order to interact

with the global community and promote their beliefs and interests internationally (Wenzelburger&Böller, 2020).

The dependence theory is helpful for understanding the complex issues that emerging African governments face when crafting their foreign policy (Agbebi& Virtanen, 2017b). This thesis, originating in the mid-20th century, posits that a nation's lack of growth is intricately linked to its exploitation and dependence on economically powerful countries (Kabonga, 2017). Former colonial powers often affect African countries' foreign policy decisions due to historical legacies, which perpetuate a system of political and economic domination. Ghana's foreign policy actions are influenced by a strategic consideration of its historical connections to British colonialism, reflecting the lasting power dynamics inherent in such linkages (Agbebi& Virtanen, 2017a). Dependency theory also elucidates the economic limitations (Prado, 2022). Developing nations are often compelled into unjust trade deals and resource exploitation according to the concept, which hinders their ability to engage constructively in global affairs. Countries facing economic challenges struggle to break free from their reliance on more advanced economies within the global economic system. Dependency Theory offers valuable perspectives on the issues faced by African governments in formulating foreign policies that consider historical, economic, and ideological factors.

### **Methodology**

The research included the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy, the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, and the College of Business Education. The selected research location was ideal for data collecting due to its diverse population with varying levels of education, responsibilities, and interests in their employment.

This study utilized a cross-sectional study design. The approach has several advantages in data collecting and analysis, since the data is suitable for both descriptive and inferential studies (Zangirolami-Raimundo and Oliveira, 2018). The study examined both quantitative and qualitative approaches for data gathering to accomplish data triangulation, as referenced by Meyer & Schutz (2020) and Oduro (2020).

### **Population Sample Size**

The study concentrated on individuals in specific higher education institutions, including both students and staff. The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy had a student population of 14,322 and 343 staff members. The Tanzania Institute of Accounts had 26,979 students and 473 personnel, while the College of Business Education had 16,988 students and 459 staff. This adds up to a total study population of 59,523. The analysis focused on one specific responder. A sample size of 399 respondents was calculated using the Yamane (1973) formula, referenced in Israel (2012), to achieve a 95% confidence level with a significance level of  $p = 0.05$ . Furthermore, eight key informant interviews (KIIs) were carried out, deliberately

choosing important informants from the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, a former military attaché, and higher education institutions. Stratified sampling was used to gather data from both students and staff. Quantitative information was collected using a questionnaire, while qualitative insights were obtained through key informant interviews (KIIs).

### **Measurements of Variables**

Factors influencing the formation of Tanzanian foreign policy were measured with three indicators, which are history, resources, and ideology. The Likert scale of 5 points was then developed to rank the level of each indicator. The ranks are: 1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3 = neutral, 4 = disagree, and 5 = strongly disagree. The history Likert items were: To what extent do you believe that Tanzania's historical relationships with other countries influence its foreign policy decisions today?; Do you think Tanzania should prioritize maintaining historical alliances, even if it means making certain compromises in its foreign policy? How important is it for Tanzania to learn from its past diplomatic successes and failures in shaping its current foreign policy? To what extent do you believe that Tanzania's colonial history has had a lasting impact on its foreign policy objectives and relationships with former colonial powers?

For resources, Likert scale items were: In your opinion, should Tanzania use its economic resources to advance its foreign policy interests on the global stage? To what extent do you believe that Tanzania's access to natural resources like minerals and energy sources influences its foreign policy decisions? How important is it for Tanzania to develop strong military capabilities to protect its national interests and influence its foreign policy? And do you think Tanzania should focus on expanding its international trade relationships, even if it means engaging with countries that have different political systems and ideologies?

Lastly, ideology was measured using four Likert scale items, which are: In your view, should Tanzania's foreign policy reflect and promote its democratic values and respect for human rights, even if it means challenging other nations on these issues? To what extent do you believe that Tanzania's religious or cultural beliefs influence its foreign policy choices? How important is it for Tanzania to align itself with likeminded countries that share similar political ideologies and values? And do you think Tanzania should be open to diplomatic engagement and cooperation with countries that have different ideologies, as long as it serves its national interests?

### **Data analysis methods**

The data was cleaned and analyzed for frequencies, central tendency, and dispersion to understand the characteristics of respondents, data, and data quality. This important step was conducted to guarantee that the data was properly prepared for further analysis (Cuschieri, 2021). The numerical data was collected and analyzed using SPSS Version 26. The data was cleaned at this step, and outliers and missing variables were detected and separated. Among the 386 replies, 8 were identified as having missing data for certain variables. The following analysis utilized descriptive statistics to present the data in a relevant and understandable way. The frequencies

were first used, then thorough explanations were provided. Content analysis was employed to examine qualitative data.

### Findings and Discussion of Findings

The findings cover mainly three specific areas of contribution: media coverage, government communication, and public opinions on increasing citizens awareness of foreign policy. The demographic characteristics of respondents show the distribution of respondents involved in the study. The data shows that of the 379 respondents, 195 identified as male, comprising 51.6% of the sample, while 183 identified as female, constituting 48.4%. These figures indicate a relatively balanced gender distribution. The education status of respondents shows that 63.8% had a degree, followed by those with a diploma (23.5%), and that 6.6% had a master's degree and 5.1% had certificates. Age distribution of 379 respondents in the research study, with the majority falling in the 15–25 age range at 66.9%, while the 26–40 age category makes up the remaining 33.1%. This information helps to understand the age composition of the study's participants, which can be essential for examining age-related trends or characteristics within the dataset.

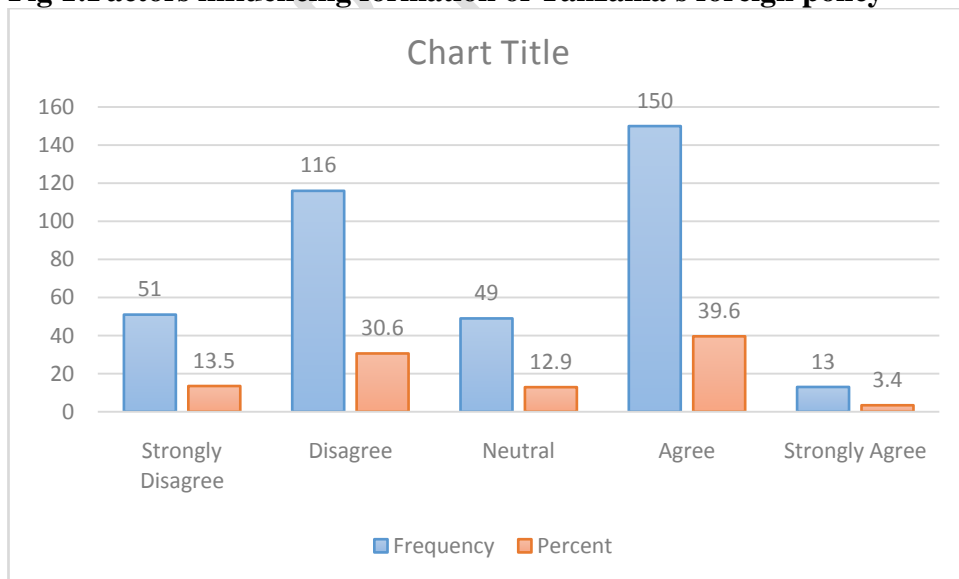
#### 4.1 Determine the factors influencing formation of Tanzania's foreign policy

The study sought to understand factors influencing foreign policy formation. It is crucial that foreign policy reflects country development and growth trajectory. Three variables were studied. The variables are History, Resource and Ideology.

##### History

History was studied to find out whether has been among the factors considered when forming the foreign policy. Results are presented in fig .1.

**Fig 1: Factors influencing formation of Tanzania's foreign policy**



The provided frequency distribution pertains to the variable of history. The data shows that 13.5% strongly disagreed with the statement, 30.6% disagreed, 12.9% were neutral, 39.6% agreed, and 3.4% strongly agreed. This information reveals that

a significant portion of respondents had various degrees of agreement with the statement regarding history, with the largest group falling into the Agree category. A smaller percentage had strong opinions, either disagreeing or strongly agreeing.

Findings from KII are shown;

*...Tanzania's dedication to upholding a robust diplomatic presence throughout the African continent has a significant impact on its foreign policy. Julius Nyerere's contribution to post-independence diplomacy and his Pan-African vision have left a lasting legacy. Tanzania's foreign policy is still based on the ideas of constructive engagement and non-alignment...”( KII 1, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023)*

Another KII had this to comments

*...This strategy has influenced the country's position as a peace and stability advocate and mediator in regional crises. Tanzania has undoubtedly established a reputation as a reliable and impartial partner in regional diplomacy and conflict resolution as a result of its contribution to liberation...(KII 7, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023)*

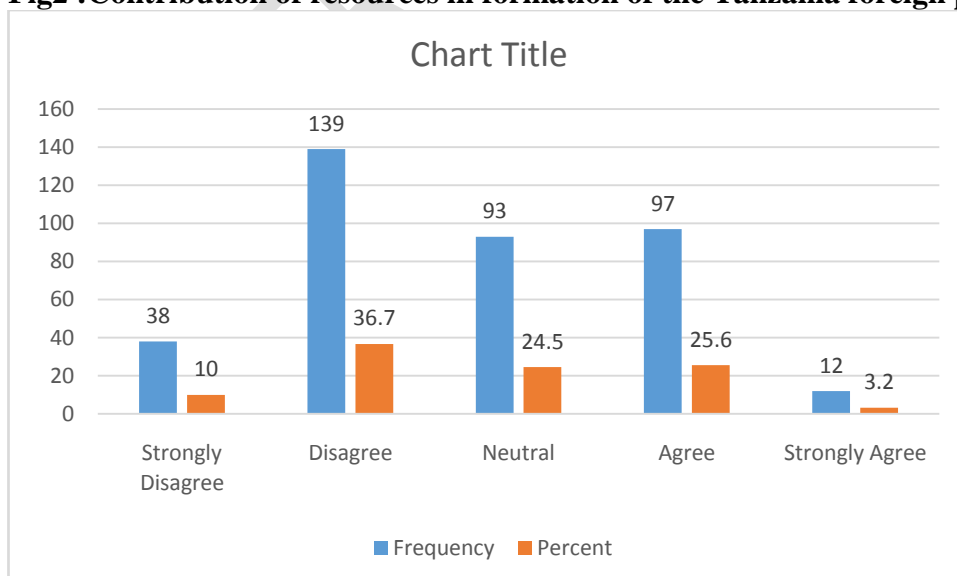
The findings on the role of history in formation of foreign policy concur with the studies on the way country histories determine a kind of foreign policies. Study by Murphy (2017) on domestic politics and southeast Asian foreign policy shows the way China-US relations with southern Asian country is influenced by historical ties of each side. Also, a studies by Abdel (2019) and Dimitrijević (2021) on non-aligned movement influences country sides in United Nations resolutions.

The findings suggests strengthening of historical ties when formulating foreign policy for a wider range of benefits including preserving historical friends at global politics.

### Resources

The study examined the contribution of resources in formation of the Tanzania foreign policy. The findings are presented in figure 2.

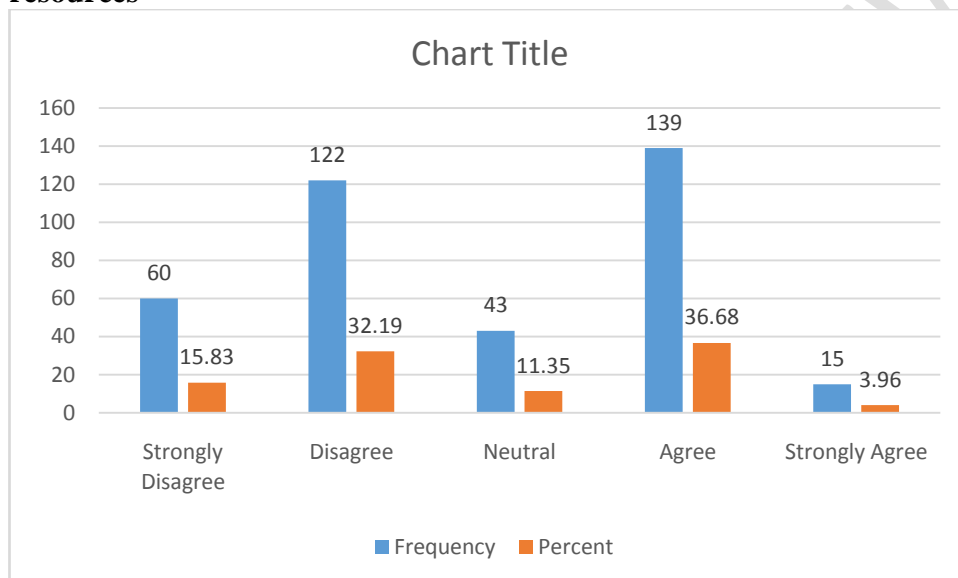
**Fig2 :Contribution of resources in formation of the Tanzania foreign policy**



The study examined the contribution of resources in formation of the Tanzania foreign policy.

The provided frequency distribution concerns resources and reflects the responses of 379 individuals to a question or statement on this subject. The data shows that 10% strongly disagreed with the statement, 36.7% disagreed, 24.5% were neutral, 25.6% agreed, and 3.2% strongly agreed. This information indicates that opinions within the surveyed group varied, with a significant portion expressing disagreement or neutrality regarding resources. The findings suggests that resources have no contribution in the foreign policy formation. This indicates a need to reform the foreign policy because the role number one of foreign policy is to safeguard and administer country resources as it leverages on the development in the international platforms.

**Fig 3 :Role number one of foreign policy to safeguard and administer country resources**



Findings from the KII;

*...Tanzania's drive to broaden its trading partnerships has surely influenced its foreign policy. The focus has shifted over time to developing economic connections with developing economies in Asia and the Middle East..." (KII 4, on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023)*

Another KII had this to say;

*...Tanzania's foreign policy has been greatly influenced by regional geopolitical factors, like as border disputes, terrorism, and maritime security. Tanzania has taken a proactive role in regional security initiatives, including the African Union's counterterrorism and peacekeeping missions....( KII 4, on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023)*

These findings suggests that Tanzania's foreign policy places a strong focus on expanding trade partnerships as a practical reaction to shifting global economic forces. Tanzania is putting itself in a position to take advantage of fresh growth prospects and lessen its reliance on a select group of trading partners by broadening its economic relations outside conventional Western markets(Magoma, 2019).

Tanzania's foreign policy has been significantly shaped by its dedication to a Pan-African vision

### **Summary of Findings**

Through the prism of dependency theory, which holds that developing countries are impacted by outside forces and frequently prolong their dependence on more powerful states, the study on the formation of foreign policy examined three important variables: history, ideology, and resources. The differing perspectives of the respondents when it comes to history are consistent with dependency theory's recognition of the historical legacies influencing foreign policy. The theory is supported by resource findings that point to the need for policy reform and emphasize the need to protect national resources and use external leverage. Tanzania's emphasis on expanding its economic ties outside of Western markets is ideologically consistent with dependency theory; it implies a tactical change to lessen dependence on a small group of trading partners. The study emphasizes how historical connections and global power dynamics shape foreign policy, which is consistent with dependency theory's central ideas about how to comprehend the dynamics of international relations.

## **Conclusion**

The paper highlights the indisputable influence of historical legacies on policy choices and highlights the complex role that history plays in Tanzania's foreign policy, where differing viewpoints mesh with the complex web of global power dynamics.

Regarding resources, the results point to the urgent need for policy change, supporting the dependency theory's claim that in order to lessen outside influence, developing countries must strategically safeguard and leverage their resources on the global arena.

Dependency theory advocates reducing dependency, which is in line with Tanzania's pursuit of diverse economic relations beyond Western markets. This change in strategy highlights the country's dedication to managing the balance of power in the world and protecting its economic interests with a wider range of trading partners.

## **Recommendations**

### **History**

Adopt a thorough awareness of historical connections to guide foreign policy choices. Create channels for ongoing communication with important parties to guarantee a strategy that honors past legacies while adjusting to changing geopolitical dynamics and cultivates diplomatic ties based on understanding and respect.

### **Resources**

Implement a thorough policy change to safeguard and strategically utilize national resources abroad. Tanzania's economic interests should be given priority in the negotiation of fair trade agreements, the strengthening of regulatory frameworks, and the development of partnerships that will lessen Tanzania's susceptibility to outside pressures and advance sustainable development through prudent resource management.

## Ideology

Expand the scope of economic ties beyond Western marketplaces in order to better serve a Pan-African agenda. Participate actively in regional projects and form strategic alliances with people who share your values. Encourage Tanzania to adopt a flexible foreign policy that responds to changes in the world economy, minimizing reliance on a small number of trading partners and setting the country up for long-term growth and influence.

## Contribution to the body of knowledge

This study clarifies the intricate interactions between historical influences, resource considerations, and ideological shifts within Tanzania's context, greatly advancing our understanding of how foreign policy is formed. The results provide policymakers with strategic recommendations based on nuanced insights that support a more adaptive and comprehensive approach to foreign policy that recognizes dependencies, protects national resources, and is in line with a larger economic vision for long-term growth and diplomatic influence.

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