

T.C.
ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



**DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN ITALY AND CAMEROON**

THESIS

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Department of Political Sciences and International Relations
Political Sciences and International Relations Program

Thesis Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Hatice Deniz YÜKSEKER

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İSTANBUL AYDIN ÜNİVERSİTESİ
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ



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I hereby solemnly declare that the information presented in this thesis is partly academic work that has been present to the academic community and my own self-following all academic rules of ethics and conduct to do this work. I also formally declare that, as required by the institute, I have fully cited and referenced all the materials I used and do not claim the rights over any of them in this thesis.

Joanas AWANDEM NKENGAFAC



DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to the following;

To my lovely mother Mrs. Atenchong Christina and powerful father, Mr. Efeutfac Robert, who have been so supportive and instrumental in my studies and in my entire life.

To all my siblings the entire family both home and abroad who have stood by me in my studies and my entire life. I equally want to thank some very good friends who have given me no small support to make this work a reality.

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Lastly, but not the least, my heart goes out to God Almighty and to my Lord Jesus Christ for the strength, power and wisdom to gather all the knowledge I could find in this study.

I equally dedicate this study to the academic community and policy makers. I so very much wish that this thesis will be highly referenced and used by the sons and daughter of Cameroon and Africa for meaningful relations. Furthermore, I hope it will substantiate on already existing knowledge directed towards its topic.

FOREWORD

This study is an exclusive attempt to firstly understand the diplomatic relations that both Cameroon and Italy have entreated for the past 30 years. Most importantly, the study tries to find out what might have caused both countries to take the bilateral relations to the next level in 2016 following the mutual visits of both presidents within a period of one year. The study further reviews the challenges that Cameroon faces at this time and seeks to understand what Cameroon stands to gain from Italy if it persistently applies all that is contained in its objectives for economic emergence. Talking about emergence, the study tries to find out further why how impactful the France-Afrique and the famous “Accord de cooperation” has been devastating to the growth of Cameroon and other former French colonies. In addition, the study takes a long walk to cross examine the geopolitics in the Gulf of Guinea and asks if Cameroon might not be moving away from the items on the “Accord de cooperation” mentioned above. In this light, the study adds that Cameroon has a lot to do to intensify meaningful growth and diversity in order to meet up with its goals and objectives for emergence.

The researcher would heartily like to add that this study would have been nothing without the assistance of Prof. Dr, Hatice Deniz Yüksek who despite her tight schedule, took out the time to read, correct and criticize some of the approaches and ideas in the work. Her criticisms were strategic and highly pivotal to redirect this study.

June, 2019

Joanas AWANDEM NKENGAFAC

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ABBREVIATIONS

BEAC	: Bank of Central African States
Camair.Co	: Cameroon Airlines Corporation
CFA	: Central African Franc
CFA	: Chattered Financial Assistance
CFR	: Case-fatality ration
CPDM	: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
EU	: European Union
GESP	: Growth and Empowerment Strategy
HIPIC	: Heavily Indebted Poor Country
MINADER	: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MRC	: Cameroon Renaissance Movement
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RCA	: Republic of Central Africa
UEMOA	: West African Economic and Monetary Union
USA	: United State of America
WAMU	: West African Monetary Union

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ITALY AND CAMEROON

ABSTRACT

This study is an empirical reviews of the relations (diplomatic and economic) that Cameroon and Italy have had for the last three decades. The study is inquisitive to understand why these two countries have been so apt to get closer and closer and the achievements acquired within the relations.

The study first seeks to understand the theoretical domain on which these two countries' relations function. Having gone through a list of theories, the study settled for neoliberalism by which it explained the effervescence of the bilateral diplomatic and economic relations that both countries have at this material time.

Then the thesis discusses the diplomatic relations between the two countries beginning from the 1970s and looks at the number of diplomats that both countries have assigned to each other. In addition, it follows through its course and reviews how resourceful the relations have been and how things suddenly seemed to be turning around for both benefit. It will also discuss the diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Italy vis-à-vis some of the challenges both countries have been having. To be discussed here more specifically are a brief history between Cameroon and Italian relations, phases of the diplomatic relations, visa challenges in Cameroon and the salvation to visa problems following the visits of the Italian president to Cameroon and likewise the visit of the Cameroonian president to Italy.

The study then discusses infrastructural challenges Cameroon might be having to question if this is one of its reasons for drawing closer to Italy. It then reviews that Italy might be seeking for a way that Cameroon and its allies would be developed and industrialized so that mass migration to Europe passing through Italy, principally, could reduce or stop. Through the infrastructural development and other recorded activities promised by Italian government, employment will increase and automatically reduce the rate of migrants to Europe.

Next, the thesis summons Cameroon on some important lessons to learn from this cooperation and dare to make a comparative analysis though on a minimal scale between Cameroon and Italy. It also discusses the sustainable development goals of Cameroon vis-à-vis what it plans to achieve by the year 2035. Secondly, it will discuss the lessons that Cameroon has to learn from the economic partnership that is not new per se but is stronger at this time. Finally, the study concludes that though the relations between the countries assert a symbiotic gain, Italy stands to gain more seeing it brings more into the relations while Cameroon stands to gain less seeing its brings less but stands to receive more.

İTALYA VE KAMERUN ARASINDAKİ EKONOMİK İŞBİRLİĞİ VE DEMOKRATİK İLİŞKİLER

ÖZET

Bu tez, Kamerun ve İtalya'nın son otuz yıldır sahip olduğu ilişkileri incelemektedir. Çalışma, bu iki ülkenin ilişkilerinin daha yakınlaşması için neden uygun olduklarını ve Kamerun'un önemli bir konuma sahip olduğu tüm Gine Körfezi için bu ilişkilerin ne kadar etkili olacağını anlamaya çalışmaktadır.

Tezde öncelikle, bu iki ülkenin ilişkilerini çerçevesini oluşturan teorik alan anlaşılmaya çalışılmıştır. İtalya ve Kamerun'un ikili ilişkilerini anlamak için en uygun teorik çerçeve neoliberalizmdir. Daha sonra, iki ülke arasındaki ilişkilerin tarihi tartışılmakta ve 1970'lerden başlayarak, her iki ülkenin de birbirine atadığı diplomatların sayısına bakılmaktadır. Tezde, ikili ilişkilerin 2000'lerden başlayarak yoğunlaşmasının üzerinde durulur.

Tezde daha sonra, altyapı zorlukları ele alınmaktadır. Kamerun'un İtalya'ya yaklaşmasının sebeplerinden biri, sorunları olabilir. İtalya'nın Kamerun ve müttefiklerinin kalkınmasına ve sanayileşmesine destek olması, Avrupa'ya kitlesel göçü engelleyebilir. Çalışmada, Kamerun'la İtalya arasındaki işbirliğinden öğrenilebilecek dersler üzerinde durulmakta ve bir karşılaştırma yapılmaya çalışılmaktadır. İki ülke arasındaki ilişkiler simbiyotik kazanç sağlamasına rağmen, İtalya'nın bu ilişkide daha kazançlı çıktığı, Kamerun'un ise daha az kazançlı çıktığı görülmektedir.

1. INTRODUCTION

Neoliberalism might be said to be championing this era of state and human relations, as there is a constant increase of interstate relations in many aspects. In fact, globalization is having a great influence on the global governance which itself is bringing no small gain to the international economy. This and many others catches the eye of this study the reason why i decided to investigate the economic gains that Cameroon and Italy enjoy at this material time.

The main research question for this thesis is “What are the economic challenges and future of Cameroon and Italy? To answer the question, the study is divided into five chapters, which tackle the question from a different angle, however, maintaining the focus on the original intent of the research.

1.1 Overview of Chapters

Chapter One introduces the research question and states the approaches taken in the course of the research.

Chapter Two is the conceptual and theoretical review. However, it begins with the definitions of basic terms, which serve as the key foundations of the discourse. This chapter does not only present the sometimes definitional controversy that underlines the concepts but also presents the rational arguments of scholars on the concepts and underlines how these concepts help in policy making.

Chapter three looks at the diplomatic relations and challenges between Cameroon and Italy and under it follows sub topics such as bilateral relations between Cameroon and Italy, phases of diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Italy, and visa issues and solving them.

Chapter Four looks at the infrastructural challenges of Cameroon and the economic vision between Cameroon and Italy. This chapter critically looks at the infrastructural challenges of Cameroon, where it discusses in depth the setbacks Cameroon has, and continues to have in view of infrastructural development. The study also asserts that

Italy might be coming in as a helpmate for Cameroon, which apparently is stuck and must be unstuck. Lastly, it discusses the economic vision that Italy and Cameroon share and how this mutual vision can lead to a symbiotic win-win relationship for both. Lastly, chapter five discusses the basic lessons that Cameroon must learn from Italy in order to become an emerging economy. However, firstly it discusses Cameroon's "vision 2035" which has somewhat become liable to a mere political propaganda aimed at keeping the ruling party in power. More so, it looks at the values of democracy and democratization, which are badly abused in practice. The study goes ahead to propose that for Cameroon to truly emerge, it must copy Italy's resilient walk to greatness and growth.

1.2 Objective of Study

The reason why I focus on Italy _Cameroon relations came because of the Italian activities such as hospitals, schools (Nursery, primary and secondary), carpentry, and garage, which provides employment to many people within the locality, under Chiara Lubick who was later crown by the Fons of Lebialem as Mafua Ndem (God Queen). This was a sign of respect and appreciation for what she did mostly in saving life, educating them, and providing jobs for them, this crown encourage them to do more for the people and as well practiced the culture.

These activities draw my attention on what could really bring them right to the interior leaving the capital and Economic capital of the country to invest more within the interior. In addition, I wanted to know what relations Cameroon had with Italy and why could Cameroon allow or give access to Italy to invest within their country, this made me to focus on Diplomatic Relations and Economic Cooperation between Italy and Cameroon.

1.2.1 Methodology

This study concentrated itself to the secondary analysis research and chooses Cameroon and Italy as its case. An extensive literature review was done to ascertain to what extent both countries have entreated each other and how far they intend to go. To substantiate on the study, official reports were read, the official website of the presidency of Cameroon was repeatedly consulted to obtain valuable information, journals were read and other published thesis were equally consulted.

1.2.2 Background of study

Dounia (2017) explains that the Italians are entering more and more into Cameroon, which happens to be the most populous country in the Central African sub region. According to him, the Italians plan to carry out a lot of construction work in Cameroon, which includes the construction of the 60.000 capacity stadium in Yaoundé, the nation's capital, the construction of an agricultural plant, social houses and the establishment of urban transport. The Italian-Cameroonian cooperation is bringing these many projects to the country in view of creating opportunities for Cameroonian youths.

Apparent as it is, projects like these should bring joy to the hearts of all however, it is important to ask why these two countries have all of a sudden developed deeper partnerships and are working closely to achieve great gains or in other words absolute gains. Firstly, it's important to note that in international relations countries only follow after their interests and where they find it they do all to make good relations. Dounia (2017) explains that the visits of both the Cameroonian and Italian presidents, who took turns to visit each other's country, increased the impetus of these relations, which had already been in existence and were apparently doing fine. He added that the relations are two sided because both countries have particular needs that must be addressed and they think that cooperating among them, will increase the likely hood for them to achieve much. Similarly, Italy being the gateway to Europe from Africa since Hungary closed its borders with Serbia, receives almost all of the migrants who leave Africa for Europe. Therefore, Italy in a bid to curb this migration understands the imperative need to help African countries build their economies. In the same light, it hopes to help Cameroon to socio economically develop and at the same time, Cameroon seeks to pacify its entry into the European god fatherhood by using Italy as its proxy. What this means is that Cameroon is badly affected at this time with three strategic security threats and wars that are crippling its economy. It fights the ravaging Boko Haram in its north, the Seleka and anti-Balaka in the east and has to deal with the rising armed calls of separation from the very disgruntled Southern Cameroonians. Similarly, Italy seeks to reduce the security risks that come along with the growing population of migrants who ceaselessly continue to ply the deadly routes of the Mediterranean in search of greener pastures in Europe. Therefore, according to Mattarella the Italian president, Cameroon is a privileged partner in the EU.

Furthermore, there are economic tentacles that bring the two countries together. This is mostly expressed in the industrialization sector where Italy seems to have a prowess than Cameroon. Dounia (2017) explained that Italy is an expert in industrialization with over 80% of Small and Medium Sized enterprises (SMEs) and Cameroon at this time needs that expertise as it struggles amid its many domestic headaches to build its economy in view of meeting its 2035 goals.

1.2.3 Importance of study

An additional fact to reckon with is that Italy comes in with the promise of financing and expertise that is imitating the Chinese foreign policy, which promises a final solution to every problem. To achieve this, they propose three entities, which are already in operation in Cameroon in the transport and construction sectors. Furthermore, it is amazing to know that Italy is the second largest export credit agency in Cameroon after the Chinese and these diplomatic and political relations are giving it more grounds to penetrate the market.

Lastly, the partnerships provide incentives for Cameroonian entrepreneurs to diversify their investments and Italy hopes to share its expertise in this regard. In a paraphrase, Italy brings the knowledge and the expertise and to crown it all up, five agreements were signed between the visits of the two presidents. These are expected to increase the living standards of all.

Machetti Siebetcheu (2013) sees these relations from another perspective and one that is uncommonly thought off. They start with a basic observation that there is an increasing use of immigrant languages in Italy. In fact, Italy has become highly lingual diversified and the Italian language is under what might be considered as a friendly assault whereby some immigrant languages are friending themselves with it in order to have their way. One of such languages, which also make Italian-Cameroonian relations very special, is the use of “Camfranglais”. Though it was already in use since the 1980s, the Camfranglais is a very popular language that was internationalized by the Cameroonian music legend, the Late Lapiro de Mbang. However, his music he was able to make a global publicity of this language and since the early 1990s, it has become one of the most used languages among the youths.

Machetti Siebetcheu (2013) observed that across Italian cities, there is a strong use of the Camfranglais and this has issued an entrance of the language into the Italian

language whose mixture has produced what is presently referred to as the “Camfranglitarian”. According to them, many Cameroonians of all ages use this language and it goes a long way to show the lingual diversity and power of the Cameroonian society, which under normal circumstances could be a strong tenet of cultural diplomacy. This however, depends on the pragmatic and critically ingenious moves of the Cameroonian ruling elite. Furthermore, the Italians were able to monitor the use of this language through social media and noticed that they are incessantly used by most Cameroonians.

According to them, the history of Cameroon puts it in a strategic position in African and makes it one of the reasons why Italy considers Cameroon as its principal partner. It is important to note that Cameroon’s historical background atones for this lingual diversity, which is not only felt in Cameroon but is also having a strong effect in the Italian domestic policy making. Cameroon’s lingual diversity comes because of exposures to different cultures dating from the 14th (Hano the Carthaginian) and 15th (Portuguese) century. It even got worse from the 19th century when the colonial powers came in.

Therefore, Machetti Siebetcheu (2013) is of the opinion that this lingual diversity can produce great and positive impacts on the socioeconomic powers of Cameroon, which already has over 279 local dialects. Mindful of the fact that the socioeconomic landscape of Cameroon is paramount to the Cameroon-Italian relations, much has to be done to tap from this great resource.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW: LIBERALISM / NEO-LIBERALISM

This chapter will define liberalism and discuss in details the concept of neoliberalism having at its focus and epicenter the political and economic diplomatic relations that have occurred between Cameroon and Italy since 2000. Firstly, it shall consider the definition of neoliberalism, it will also question who or what the referent object is, then it will discuss the origin of neoliberal studies and hence the arguments of neoliberalism.

2.1 Liberalism

From the political science perspective, the object of discussion in liberalism shifts from the state centric figure to an individual centric figure. Therefore, at the very epicenter of liberalism is the individual and the discourse revolves around him. Chau (2009) highlights that liberalism is the study that elevates the individual above everything other thing in the state and gives him a distinct position. It centers holds on individualism and liberty. Notwithstanding it reiterates its stance that the state should promote the development and progress of the individual and allow him to reach any level he desires. To achieve this liberty is highly indispensable (Chau, 2009).

In addition, Rousseau and Walker (2012) add that liberalism preaches human freedom, political participation, private property, and equality of opportunity. Melleuish (2009 cited in Chau, 2009) adds that liberalism has two fundamental principles, which are individualism and liberty. He goes ahead to add that the foundational thought of liberalism in political science remains that governments should not interfere with the private lives of citizens except on very extreme situations. Gray (1986, in Chau, 2009) adds to this two principles of liberalism can be divided into four which are individualism, liberty, universalism and Meliorism. For him individualism as the name implies is the ability for the state to respect the rights of its citizens and let them do as they would this is because individuals are raised as the highest principality of the state. Similarly, Locke proposes that since the rights of humans are natural they must not be impinged. Furthermore, he adds that since violence is also a natural phenomenon with humans, it is not sure if people can stay without hurting each other and this is the

‘harm’ principle of human relations in liberalism studies. Therefore, to avoid people hurting people some level of state control is needed to protect people from the other Gray (1986 cited in Chau, 2009).

Summarily, the power of the state is limited and the individual reigns supreme in the state strata.

Gray (2009 cited in Chau, 2009) continues that egalitarianism simply means providing equal rights; opportunities and privileges to everyone and these rights are political and economic rights. Universalism means, humans the world over must be treated the same and provided with the same opportunities regardless of cultures, race and economic status. Lastly, Meliorism makes a proportional equation between human beings and their state institutions. It says the humans have the capacity to develop alongside their social and political institutions Gray (1986, Chau, 2009).

Rousseau and Walker (2012) pinpoint that in international relations liberalism claims that democracies make better friends and do not spend much spending on military power. Contrary to realist arguments, they insist that instead, states thrive for better relations with their neighbors and consequently might even join international institutions where they have greater prospects to make absolute gains. They add that it might be better to further, adjust to this claim by looking at the three levels of analysis proposed by liberalism by which state behavior can be studied and understood. They include the individual, state and international analysis.

Rousseau and Walker (2012) add that liberalism in its plight to explain human and state relations firstly, does not dodge the democratic peace theory that states that democracies do not go to war. Secondly, they hold the assertion that democratic states behave differently and most times independently support each other in mutual ways. Contrary to realism, that preaches force and coercion liberalism sees cooperation as a means to end the violence. Actually, Rousseau and Walker (2012) identify three potential claims of liberalism that are:

Firstly, democracy reduces military spending, secondly, economic interdependence reduces military conflict and lastly, international institutions reduce military conflict. Unlike realism which advocates for power at all cost, liberalism is seen as the good guy who believes that good human-state relations and policies will lead to incentives of democracy which in the short run, will have a tremendous effect on the state’s

foreign policy and balance in the international system. That said it is needful to return to the subject of the theoretical review, neoliberalism that is a better continuation of liberalism.

According to Simon (2007) states can cooperate among themselves in an equitable way through the help of international institutions which facilitate relations between them and by also providing them with all the information they need to set themselves up. The World Health Organization (2018) adds, “Cooperation among countries can be an effective tool to strengthen, share and accelerate health development within countries and across regions”. Where countries cannot help themselves international institutions come in to help them solve issues that have transgressed political boundaries.

2.2 Neoliberalism in International Relations

While liberalism looks, at the appropriation of the individual who is considered important and at the center of interest, neoliberalism in international relations looks at it from a different perspective. According to Thompson (2005), neoliberalism in international relations has an economic prerogative that is to say it strictly looks at the dissipation of capital. Furthermore, it could be said that in some respects neoliberalism is an advocate of capitalism because it looks at the flow of means of production and how impactful they could be not only for domestic consumption but also for the international community (Wikan, 2015). However, there are many who think that liaising capitalism with economic neoliberalism should explain the way both concepts are managed for the actualization of economic relations between states Wikan (2015, cited Litonjua 2008). However, Thompson (2005) reiterates that using the word capital in his explanation does not implicitly imply economics or monetary transactions. Instead, he warns that it simply means the organizing principle of modern society.

Many scholars are of the opinion that pronouncing the word neoliberalism simply brings international market economics on the discussion table. Similarly, how states approach this international trade depends on their attitudes which could be qualified in political terms as their foreign policy and also on the systemic flow of political and cultural relations in the international system. For Mammadov and Hassanov (2016) neoliberalism is the seed of a struggling political agenda that seeks to expand its intent for domination that at the same time suffers an impending class struggle between

societies. The foremost reason for this class struggle might go back to Thompson (2005) who sees neoliberalism as a capitalist doctrine with a global expansionist agenda. Moreover, the best possible way to accentuate this policy is to beef up factors of production because the more the production, the higher the possibility to gain new grounds, markets and territories. Thorson and Lie (2010) agree that power and wealth are constantly on the increase and this is demonstrated through the rapid spread of multinational companies that are backed by sometimes-harsh political and economic decisions for the achievement of the ultimate goal. Thorson and Lie (2010) add that neoliberalism is a revival of Adam Smith's capitalist economic proposals, which entail strong economic and policymaking's.

On this note, this study would like to state that considering the multi polarity nature of the world today, no state would achieve anything economically or politically if they adopt the policy of force. This is because globalization is stretching through countries and exposing many grounds of interactions, which would otherwise not be possible if force is enacted. While neoliberalism in international relations asserts that states should go after their absolute gains rather than seek relative gains (Jervis, 1999), Whyte (2012, cited Keohane and Nye, 2001) on the other hand argue that interdependence, particularly economic interdependence, is now an important feature of world politics. On these bases of cooperation, many states joined under the canopy of institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations, etc. work together to find ways that would better their lives together.

Neoliberalism asserts that anarchy could be an impediment and limiting factor but international institutions help states overcome many of these boundaries (Simon, 2007). Mir (2014) is of the opinion that anarchy is such a limiting factor, which is capable of creating chaos among states even when they share similar goals and interests. Therefore, the work of international institutions is much because they have to make sure that the personal interests of states, which cannot be limited, do not overtly interfere to the detriment of cooperating with other states. Though realism is for this fact and encourages states to take cooperation as a chance to gain maximum power (Whyte, 2012), neoliberalism instead fights hard to limit it for the benefit of all. Simon (2007) thinks that anarchy can be tackled through a conglomerate of good will actors who abandon their selfish interests. Moreover, the creation of these institutions ascertains that anarchy can be filled up and later dissolved.

Neoliberalism assumes that human beings have the abilities to lead and can be trusted in their leadership (Simon, 2007). Unlike realism, which does not trust human ability but instead, suspects that it might use it for coercion (Whyte, 2012), neoliberalism is nothing without it. This is because though institutions are the agents who foster collaboration between states, they are nonetheless, powered by human brains. For this reason, they stand trust worthy and walk tall in all state and interstate endeavors. Above it was discussed that liberalism advocates for the development of human beings. Therefore, the position of humans here is simply an eloquent testimony of the developments they have undergone and the many investments made in them by their states such that they are able to staff these many institutions and under the most challenging moments. This study sees it that neoliberalism and international institutions give man the distinct ability to maintain his innovating, developmental processes.

Collaboration is very difficult especially seeing the fact that no two states might have the same troubles at least, on the same scale. However, states after weighing their cost and benefit analysis will certainly prefer to join in than remain isolated Whyte (2012 cited in Keohane, 1984). A vital ingredient that mostly generates strives and tension among states in the international system is greed and selfishness and might be tempted to use force in some cases to achieve their objectives. To limit this before its spill overs create more problems than needed, institutions consider the power disparity existing among states and try to balance them. However, it is difficult to control or completely reduce the power of a state thoughtless of controlling its behavior. Actually, states simply look out for their own interests but will in many cases prefer collaboration rather than war or coercion Whyte (2012 cited in Mearsheimer, 1995).

Gains are of paramount imperative in cooperation and many states might fear to be at the losing end. Realists think that this is one of those decisive moments that shortly push states to question the sharing of the spoils in view. In fact, Waltz (Waltz, 1979 cited in Whyte, 2012) argues, under global anarchy, “when faced with the possibility of cooperating for mutual gains, states that feel insecure must ask how the gain will be divided”. There is a strong tendency for states to claim all if they can and though that is not usually the case, it is actually a possibility. Moreover, it can be argued that states pursue relative gains and will not hesitate to claim the spoils if the opportunity presents itself. However, Mastanduno (1991 cited in Whyte, 2012) frowns at relative gains and

suggests that though relative gains sound appealing, they can nonetheless, be destructive as they are conducive to the twin evils of protectionism and nationalism”. Therefore, states will go for mutual gains or absolute gains and will even prefer to engage in bilateral partnerships that will last for long and produce longer absolute gains with their partners.

On this regards institutions also must strive to create independent policies and mechanisms that are free from foreign interferences and universal in approach so that no state feels victimized and trampled upon. Neoliberalism fosters institutional performance in this regards and seeks for ways by which internal systems can be designed with all-inclusive principles by which the collaboration between states will be efficient, meaningful and lasting (Simon, 2007).

Furthermore, the pattern of flow of post modernity has praised neoliberalism for its ability to create interdependence thanks to the forces of globalization. These include modern technological and industrial advances, which are the seeds of research and development. With these, countries find better grounds of interaction and collaboration. Considering that the world is being piloted by the global capitalist economy, institutions keep a watchful eye over states and make sure that none engages in habits of cheating (Simon, 2007).

Simon (2007 cited in Keohane, 1984) adds that thanks to this constant revelation and considering the global changing order, even the relative power of the US has reduced. This is significantly clear since after the fall of the Soviet Union. Furthermore, he adds that interdependence between states provides a rational, strategic incentive for states to continue cooperating with one another. Economic cooperation according to them is far-reaching and more advantageous than military force, which instead creates pores in relations.

It is necessary to take the word “interdependence” introduced by Keohane and Nye (1987). In fact, they use it in a more definitive manner to be “a complex interdependence” which does not only speak of bilateral relations between countries but also denotes some elements of multilateralism. That is a phenomenon whereby more than two countries engage in economic and political relations for their absolute gains. For the sake of the repetition, this thesis would like to state that neoliberalism considers the cooperation of states as a deliberate act of enhancing each other’s

interests in a way that all gain something. This is the reason why it stresses more on the concept of “absolute gains” rather than “relative gains” which is the counter thought of realists. According to Keohane and Nye (1987) under this complex interdependence, some complex traditional cooperation between states is increasing. Actually, states are more and more interdepending on each other for their collective survival. Even the larger and stronger states at some points need the weaker and smaller states in order to obliterate any threats to their global ambition (Simon, 2007 cited in Keohane, 1984).

So, briefly, neoliberalism advocates for the collective success of all states in order to ensure their collective survival. Keohane and Nye (1987) add that military force as it was formerly used before as well as balancing of power is somewhat reducing. In addition, that though these are important to maintain some level of balance in the international community and the already troubled anarchic system, they might not be the only ingredients needed to drive international politics to fruition. They continue that actually, it is of sound importance to always repeat that states are the major actors of the international system and most times, determine the flow of power at all the levels of analysis discussed above. Therefore, coercive power and the politics of force have a direct consequence to relations that might be tangled between states and that is enough to create a trust vacuum in the international system. Alas, if this trust vacuum exists, then states cannot cooperate and this phenomenon can give room to great tension and war if not remedied.

For this reason and learning from the past, states have become more complacent with this concept of complex interdependence (Keohane and Nye, 1987) which is strengthened through multiple diplomatic interactions between states and transnational civil societies, Tran’s governmental organizations and other transnational relations that can foster relations and limit the surge of tension (Keohane and Nye, 1987). In addition, the setting up of international institutions that help to pacify relations between states and powered by highly refined men and women working in them, assure the treatments of problems as they rise. In a parallel, states are invited to make the necessary policies adjustments that will fossilize their practice of good domestic policies and better foreign policies as well. Most importantly, following the dense and complex cultural nature of the international system and considering the meshwork of complex multilateral connections that bind states, no issue should be treated highly

above another as it may hurt a state and kill trust among others. The situation is complex and to say that there have not been issues on this regard would be a lie. The Rohingya crisis, the war in Palestine, the war in the Middle East and the separatist calls of Catalonia have earned far-reaching coverage on the media and repeated discussions at the United Nations Security Council whereas the same troubles are happening elsewhere without any such coverage. More so, there are many more troubles in other Third World countries such as in Cameroon where there are also separatist calls from its restive English speaking minorities, but the United Nations Security Council has never called for a seating to discuss the genocide currently going on in that part of the world. In fact, the United Nations until now has maintained a silent status quo as if Cameroon does not exist in the world map. This is eloquent testimony to attest that there has been some level of bias if not racism with some international organizations that do not react the same way to crisis in different parts of the world.

As modernity and globalization continue to impose sometimes-hard changes in the internal organization of states, it is vital to remember that humanity would last longer and the peaceful relations between states would be more meaningful if the sold decline of military force and coercive power in international relations were curbed (Keohane and Nye, 1987). In the other hand the increase of economic relations will guarantee more interstate survival than the use of military force which only creates setbacks, strive and polarization.

Following this conceptual analysis of neoliberalism, the next chapter of this study would like in empirical depths to look at the political and diplomatic relations that have existed between Cameroon and Italy since the 2000s. Of a surety, both countries in search of absolute gains as emphasized in the earlier lines of this study decided to mutually interdepend on each other in order to achieve their most pressing needs. Following Keohane and Nye's (1987) analysis, both Cameroon and Italy hungry for domestic and global dominance though at different levels of engagements, have decided to carry their likes for each other to a different level and this can be clearly explained and seen in the later chapters of this study. A perfect dissection of these relations shall be made for easy understanding.

3. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND CHALLENGES BETWEEN CAMEROON AND ITALY

This chapter shall discuss the diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Italy vis-à-vis some of the challenges both countries have been having. To be discussed here more specifically are a brief history between Cameroon and Italian relations, phases of the diplomatic relations, visa challenges in Cameroon and the salvation to visa problems following the visits of the Italian president to Cameroon and likewise the visit of the Cameroonian president to Italy.

3.1 Bilateral Relations Between Cameroon and Italy

The Presidency of Cameroon (2017) explains that diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Italy began in 1960 when Cameroon gained its independence. This study would like to emphasize that the Cameroon spoken of here is French Cameroon, which at the time had gained its independence whereas, English Cameroon by then was still a British Trusteeship Territory and was looking forward to becoming independent itself. On the “28th of February 1962 Italy was the first to open the diplomatic doors with the presentation of credentials of the first Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Cameroon with residence in Yaoundé”. Cameroon followed suit after two years and in 1964, it opened its diplomatic mission in Rome and was headed by an interim charge d’Affaires (Presidency of Cameroon, 2017). However, for reasons that the government of Cameroon does not give, The Presidency of Cameroon (2017) adds that Cameroon’s diplomatic mission was closed in 1965 and opened again in 1974. Following Cameroon history, this study remembers that the dates aforementioned correspond to the era where the Late. El Hadj Amadou Ahidjo first president of Cameroon was in power. Nonetheless, the diplomatic relations took a different turn when Paul Biya became the first president. He did not only maintain the operations of the mission in Rome but went ahead to solidify its presence by appointing in 1984 the first Cameroonian Ambassador in Rome only two years after he became president. Apparently, things have gone well between the two countries since then as both have been engaged in the meticulous business of appointing and transferring

Ambassadors. Italy on its part has had dozens of Ambassadors but Cameroon has not really had many as its current Ambassador has been serving there since 2008 awaiting transfer. As of now, “the Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to Italy is Mr. Dominique AWONO ESSAMA, appointed on the 9th of June 2008 and he presented his credentials to the president of Italy in 2009 (Presidency of Cameroon, 2017).

It is also important to note and the Presidency of Cameroon (2017) stresses on this point that Cameroon-Italy relations took another turn in 2006 following Cameroon’s debt cancellation. This also followed with a heavy envelope of over \$34 billion, which the government of Cameroon decided to use to foster industrial, technological, and educational infrastructures. However, before then, both countries have been operating under the banner of strict legal terms that qualify their operations as equal and win-win. In that regard, the cooperation both countries enjoy is guided under a series of laws, which make up the legal grounds for their continuous engagements. This study would like to list just three of the legal items by which both countries adhere:

- Agreement on technical, economic and financial cooperation, 17 January 1989.
- Agreement on the protection and reciprocal promotion of investments, 29 June 1999.
- Agreement on the debt cancellation (in force since 30 November 2006) (Presidency of Cameroon, 2007).

Furthermore, institutionally both countries cooperation in agricultural research and were blessed to gain satisfactory results of work done in Cassava processing. This comes as a result of the food crisis that constantly rocks Kenya, Ethiopia and other countries in the Horn of Africa. Cameroon which is also known as “Africa in Miniature” (Belle, 2016), is rich with fertile agricultural lands and a friendly agricultural climate which if well exploited with modern agricultural technologies such as tractors, fertilizers and pesticides, will exonerate the country to the next level of entrepreneurship and industrial development. Mindful of this fact and considering the policy of diversification of resources meant to support all the regions of the country to boost their agricultural productions, the government of Cameroon has come up with much rhetoric directed towards food security. Not wanting to fall prey to the food insecurity many other countries in Africa suffer, Cameroon has embarked on a serious mission aimed at aborting any threat of a food crisis. The Cassava processing research

mentioned above was conducted between The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the University of Florence in Italy.

3.2 Phases of Diplomatic Relations Between Cameroon and Italy

Cameroon and Italy have different forms of bilateral relations in the past. However, the two countries decided to increase the steam of their bilateral relations following the visits of their respective presidents to each other's soil in well-defined successive times. First, it was Italian president, Mattarella, who visited Cameroon at the invitation of His Excellency Paul Biya, president of Cameroon from March 20th to 24th, 2016. His visit was reciprocated by Paul Biya who visited Italy from March 20th to 23rd, 2017 at the invitation of the Italian president. Journal du Cameroon (2019) remembers that the visit of Paul Biya to Italy was to "reinforce diplomatic, economic and bilateral ties between the two countries".

This study would like to mention that before these historical exchanges between the two presidents, no Cameroonian president except Paul Biya had been to Italy on such a state visit likewise no Italian president had been to Cameroon in that regard. Paul Biya on his regards had been invited twice to the Vatican though the visit was not officially to Italy as this was (Presidency of Cameroon, 2019). Nevertheless, the win-win relationship that both countries entreat is strategic for both their developments and the advancements of their interests.

Cameroon and Italy had been entreating different phases of diplomatic relations but these took a sudden turn for the better if it must be said after the phenomenal 2006 debt cancellation. Since then, both countries as if awoken from a long sleep have decided to take their relationship to the next level for the collective good of all of them. This study would like to discuss the different phases by which the diplomatic and bilateral relations were entertained by the visits of both presidents.

3.2.1 Socio-cultural relations

Before the visit of both presidents in 2016 to strengthen, the relationship Italians (Focolary) had long invested within the territory of Cameroon mostly within the English part of Cameroon. The first focolarini in Fontem, Chiara came to visit in June 1966 establishing immediately a strong bond of understanding with the Fon of Fontem and the population and also laying the foundation stone of the hospital (Mary Health

of Africa). She came back three years later as promised and together with Fon Defang Fontem she inaugurated the hospital that today serves as the regional reference center and has saved countless lives. She expresses her recognition of the values she has found in the Bangwa people: “never, in any other place, have I found such kindness, goodness, such profound human values, so much love and faith as here in Fontem.” Two years later she went ahead to open a branch in Fonjumetaw still in the south West which was the only hospital taking care of a population of about 2million people, till 2015 where the government had to assist with a health centers.

She also opened nursery and primary and secondary school (Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College), where science and add subjects were taught. This secondary school had always been first since its creation for the Cameroon General Certificate of Education (CGCE), most of these students through the interaction with the teachers could speak Italian. The hydroelectric plant was build that could provide electricity to these hospitals and schools even to the surrounding population and to the Carpentry, workshop, garage which provided the necessary things for these schools and hospitals. It went ahead to offer jobs to the population and some basic facilities like car repairing, chairs, dresses among others. Though the lives of the focolarini practically based on living, the Gospel brought about a rapid spread of Christianity and led to the inauguration of the lively St. Clare’s Parish in 1975 and our lady of Annunciation parish in 2002. The Italian through the above activities after many years of living together could eat the Bnag-nwa ditches, speak their language among others.

The above activities brought life to the people, where by the Fon crown her (Chiara) Mafua Ndem (God Queen), even after the death of Mafua Ndem, the success was crown with the same. She did not only brought life to the people of Bang-nwa but also love and fraternity with her words she gave to them as a motor “May they all be one”.

3.2.2 Educational relations

Mindful of the fact that Italy has very advanced and very well equipped universities, Cameroon sought to ameliorate its educational conditions by entering into some partnerships and agreements with the Italian government. Firstly, some conventions were signed between Cameroon universities and Italian universities and Cameroon Minister of Higher Education, Jacques Fame Ndongu under the instructions of the Head of State, Paul Biya, did these on the behalf of the government. As Cameroon

Tribune (2017) witnessed, the convention signed by these universities centered more on recognizing certificates from both countries. However, the weight rests heavily from the Cameroonian end where students with certificates from other countries including Turkey, may have their certificates meticulously scrutinized, denied or questioned by the Cameroon government (The Sun Newspaper, 2016). This has badly affected the rates at which the Cameroon diaspora returns to find jobs back home. More so, on the part of Italian universities, it has to ensure that certificates coming from Cameroon are not passed through a rigorous lens, which might be detrimental to the student.

Secondly, the convention between the universities as Cameroon Tribune (2017) continues is to ease the award of scholarships to students, enhance exchange between lecturers and students either through specific programs or generally.

Thirdly, there was specific signing of accords between 20 Italian state and other private universities with Cameroonian universities that were aimed at addressing different educational needs. This also was to increase the mobility of teachers and students between the two countries, make knowledge acquisition pacific and easily retainable. A very important and funny agreement that followed came in part as a result the publication of the Italian university that did a study on the importance of culture and migration from Africa. This accord was about the teaching of languages and to be precise the Italian embassy stressed on the “Camfranglias” which simply means “Cam’- for Cameroon, ‘fran’- for ‘français’ or French and ‘glias’-for Anglais or English”. Machetti and Siebetchu (2013) who coined the words noticed that students hailing from Cameroon and studying in Italy had a particular lingua that was very particular in its kind. They also witnessed that this language was widely spoken by Cameroonian expatriates who were resident in Italy. They explained that following Cameroon’s multilingual diversity and cultural heritage, this language which they called “Camfranglais” is a mixture of Cameroon’s indigenous languages, English and French”. According to them, the syntax and semantics of the language is so beautiful and particular in its kind such that they proposed that it might be important to have it taught to Italian students who might be interested in African studies and African indigenous languages.

Lastly, Cameroon Tribune (2017) cited the explanations of the Cameroonian Minister of Higher Education Jacques Fame Ndongo who explained that the last agreement was

about Cameroon fully implementing the policy of teaching Italian in all Cameroonian schools as a second language. Note that the Minister saying the teaching of this language as a second language comes in defiance of the Cameroon constitution that recognizes only two official languages. One of the languages becomes first or second with respect to the region of the country. In French Cameroon English is a second language to all Francophone students while in Anglophone Cameroon, French is a second language.

Therefore, if the Minister is saying Italian will henceforth be taught as a second language alongside others like Spanish and German that have been taught in mostly French speaking colleges for years, then it means English has been pushed aside and this justifies the raging angers of the English speaking minority who cry foul at policies of discrimination that according to them, relegates them to the rare. Minister Fame Ndongso continued that firstly, the agreement stipulates that Italy would have to send Italian teachers to Cameroon who will teach Cameroonian students Italian in all secondary schools and universities. At the same time, the government of Cameroon plans to make that short-lived, as Cameroonian students in Higher Teacher's Training Institutions, will be sent on scholarships to Italy to learn the language, and then return home to teach it. He finished that this was an important policy that the government had taken because it thought that the capacity of the Cameroonian generation to speak Italian would satisfy some areas of need especially in the scientific sector as the government sees it (Cameroon Tribune, 2017).

3.2.3 Economic relations

For over fifteen years now, Cameroon in defiance of the depleting "Accord de Cooperation or Accord of Cooperation" it signed with France prior to independence in 1959, which made France its one and only economic partner, it has been on an adventure to diversify its economic partners. This diversification has ushered in the Russians, Chinese, Italians, Vietnamese, Brazilians, and South Koreans who through agreements are helping Cameroon in key areas of its economic development and growth. On February 2017, an Economic Forum that assembled investors and entrepreneurs in Cameroon for the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises dubbed PROMOTE and usually under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Republic, exposed Cameroon's investment potentials and encouraged Italian investors to

consider Cameroon as the place to invest (Business in Cameroon, 2017). This first contact with the Italian business class was aimed at establishing partnerships but a second Economic Forum held in Rome and chaired by Cameroon's president Paul Biya, brought many stunning revelations that might have really convinced many Italian investors to find their way to Cameroon. Business in Cameroon (2017) explains that following these Cameroon-Italian joint meetings, Cameroon specifically desires investors in the areas of housing, agriculture, logging, skin and leather and marble production. Fortunately, Italy has companies that are well advanced in these sectors and a strong factor that made Cameroon to seek for their interests. As regards to housing, the two countries signed "the Memorandum of Understanding between the National School of Public Works and the University of Padua. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Civil Engineering, Architectural and Environmental at the same University, for the promotion of sustainable urban development in Cameroon" (CameroonWeb, 2016). In his address, Paul Biya reiterated to his Italian counterparts that Cameroon "has a healthy business climate regardless of some irregularities that his government is working on. Secondly, Cameroon has a stable debt" so whoever invests in Cameroon he stressed, should in the short run become one of "Cameroon's top business partners" (Business in Cameroon, 2017). This came after it was officially announced, "Italy has canceled Cameroon's debt of CFA99.3 billion stretched over the past ten years" (APA News, 2017). The reason for this cancellation was when Cameroon reached the completion point of Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPIC) (World Bank, 2018).

3.2.4 Infrastructure relations

Cameroon suffers heavily from mismanagement, embezzlement, corruption and the misappropriation of state funds, which could have raised the country's infrastructural potential high. It is shameful to think that fifty years after independence Cameroon has only over 50.000kms of road network with over 5.000 km tarred (Business in Cameroon, 2019). Shamefully, only about 10% of Cameroon's roads are tarred with the greater majority being untarred. The government aims at increasing the percentage to up to 17% and with over 8.500km by 2020. While this is only one of the sectors that suffer infrastructural hardships, the entire nation struggles with poor infrastructure and could be one of the reasons why Cameroon tirelessly seeks foreign funding to meet up.

The infrastructural disgrace of Cameroon did not go unnoticed and was detrimental to Cameroon's privileged hosting rights of the African Nations Cup for 2019. Alas, Cameroon's hosting rights of the African Cup of Nations before it was stripped off the rights to host the prestigious African soccer tournament, dubbed for 2019 brought open doors for potential investors who flooded the country all trying to win a share of their contracts. For Cameroon, this was an opportunity to step up the country's infrastructure and make the country easy and comfortable for Cameroonians and all expatriates who live therein.

The Italians were on a pacific highway and needed not stress too much because the economic agreements they had signed with Cameroon following the cancellation of Cameroon's debts (APA News, 2017) as mentioned above, gave them a leeway. More so, the Italian construction company, Piccini, won the contract to build Cameroon's biggest football stadium called Paul Biya stadium situated in the Olembe neighborhood in the outskirts of Yaoundé, the nation's capital (Business in Cameroon, 2016, p. 13). This study understands that this company was chosen following its success in constructing one of the Italian stadiums where the 1990 World Cup was played and where Cameroon made a stunning performance by beating Argentina 1 goal to nil in the opening game and becoming the first African nation to ever reach the quarterfinals of the FIFA World Cup. In order to show their support and concern for the success of completing this project and preserving Cameroon's glory as the Brazil of Africa, the newly appointed Ambassador of Italy to Cameroon, Marco Romiti, paid a courtesy visit to the Cameroonian Minister of Sports and Physical Education (Mosima, 2017). Mosima (2017) testified that his visit affirmed Italy's obligation and resolve to accompany Cameroon through the frivolous paths of preparing for the competition. The Presidency of Cameroon (2017) adds that bilateral agreements with Italians reveal that they also have to construct over 10.000 residential houses in Cameroon. And this is only one of the many projects that the government of Cameroon has in view of its 3 years' emergence goals for the nation. Amid these, there are many other projects that require funding some of which are the tarring of highways, construction of new airports and the rehabilitation of already existing ones, the construction of the Cameroon-Chad railway which is still not complete (Presidency of Cameroon, 2017). Therefore, the economic relations between Cameroon and Italy carry a heavy envelope that according to the Italian president satisfies Italy's interests

in the region. It behooves this study to add that before 2006, Cameroon did not quite feature in Italy's list of potential partners in Africa. However, following many fruitful exchanges, the Italians see a potential in Cameroon and want to help Cameroon develop its economy so that less Africans will cross the Mediterranean to go to Europe. For the Italians it is not just money and economics but also an issue of national security. More so, the visit was a diplomatic move aimed at solidifying the cooperation between the Ministries of Sports of the two countries. Unfortunately, the hosting rights of the competition have been stripped off from Cameroon by the Confederation of African Football because the Confederation of African Football complained that Cameroon despite having been given five years to prepare for this competition, Cameroon is sure not to be ready in ten years seeing that the competition begins in June 2019 but basic infrastructures such as roads, hotels and hospitals are nowhere to be found (Kazeem, 2018). However, work continues and the company is determined to complete the stadium by the expected deadline.

3.3 Visa Issues and Their Resolutions

One of the important discussions that were held between the two presidents that culminated to the signing of three agreements (CameroonWeb, 2016) which are tilted towards the diplomatic and legal sectors of the bilateral agreements was the relaxation of visas for both countries. This study understands that if this item was belabored, it means before then, visa issues even for diplomatic holders was tough and rigorous. Before the ubiquitous visits of the two political leaders, Mbonteh (2016) had warned of a synchrony of meetings between Cameroon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lejeune Mbella Mbella, and the Italian Ambassador Samuela Isopi, who had started having talks in 2015 about amending Cameroon-Italian relations as from 2016. Apparently, this was a pace setter in view of the visit of the Italian president which was programmed in March of 2016. CameroonWeb (2016) adds that three agreements were signed between Cameroon and Italy and these were directed towards "exempting short stay visas of diplomatic and service passport holders. Improve cultural relations between the two countries and foster technical and scientific Agreement and the Resources from the Cameroonian debt cancellation towards Italy". In addition, both countries agreed to sustain a joint view about the endless cries for reforms in the United Nations Security Council. Furthermore, diplomatic agreements were signed which

granted free visas to holders of diplomatic and service passports of both countries. According to this study, this diplomatic success does not only end with diplomats but also opens doors for Italian and Cameroonian expatriates who wish to travel to either of the countries for varying reasons (Presidency of Cameroon, 2017).

To conclude, we can see that the visits of the two head of states that is Cameroonian president and Italian president, improved the bilateral relations between the two countries. Economically for Italy to consider Cameroon as their second home through the speech of the minister of Agriculture and Rural development, it gave Italy more reasons to invest in Cameroon which will reduce the immigration issues and encourage or employ many Cameroonians. We can see that the visit of the two head of states also led to the signing of educational agreement that approved certificates within the two countries for jobs, as well as the relaxation of visa process or allowing citizens with diplomatic passports to travel freely to both countries. Concerning the infrastructural investment, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the ministries of Housing and Urban development and the department of civil Engineering and architecture for the promotion of a sustainable development in Cameroon. In order to improve on the infrastructural development, the Italian government cancelled the Cameroon debt of over 99.3 billion FCFA thereby encouraging them to improve on their network, though the cancellation was done after Cameroon had reached the completion of heavily indebted poor country (World Bank 2018). Doing everything to help Cameroon improved by the Italian government Cameroon could not meet up in hosting the African nation cup due to its delay on infrastructural development and insecurity within the English speaking part of the country who are fighting for the restoration of their independence and the Boko Haram of the Northern part of Cameroon. With this we can see that both parties are doing all to improve on their relations.

From the above explanation's, we can see that as both presidents are trying to build a strong relationship, the Italians since 1996 through the Focolary movement had done a lot to its population, though they could not do all due to some political reasons. As the government tries to make the Italian language official, and by making certificates recognized by both countries, and the release of some restrictions on visa, will help, build a better relationship between the two countries.

4. INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES OF CAMEROON AND THE ECONOMIC VISION BETWEEN CAMEROON AND ITALY

This section will discuss the infrastructural challenges that Cameroon faces. Secondly, it will look at the economic vision that Cameroon and Italy share vis-à-vis these challenges and lastly, it will ask if Paul Biya, Cameroon's president is selling Cameroon's oil rich region, Bakassi, to the West.

4.1 Infrastructural Challenges of Cameroon

Cameroon that happens to be the biggest economy in its sub-economic region, suffers greatly from bad infrastructures that date back to its first president, Amadou Ahidjo. In chapter two, it was discussed that the president of Italy specifically chose Cameroon because for security reasons, the Italians believe that if Cameroon steps up its game and moves towards development, it will reduce the number of Cameroonians who will dare the Sahara Desert and the deadly Mediterranean to Italy. More so, it will serve as an example to help other African countries to do it and at the end reduce illegal mass migration.

However, discussing the infrastructural challenges of Cameroon it is important to add that the following domains are of pertinent importance, power and communication. Cameroon has five hydroelectric dams with only two operational. They are the Edea, Lom Pangar, Lagdo Reservoir, Warak and Song Loulou hydroelectric dams. The Lom Pangar (30MW) dam has been in construction since 2013 and it seems it will never be delivered for reasons strongly related to embezzlement and corruption of the highest order. Mbodiam (2019) believes that this dam is particularly important because firstly, it has a storage capacity of 6 billion cubic meters. Secondly, he cites "the pan African finance institution, which predicts that this year, 2.7 million residents would have an improved access to electricity thanks to the various dams and power plants in construction since 2009". Though this sounds very optimistic and proves that Cameroon is stepping up its energy infrastructures, there is so much to be done as some of the operational machines and work force needed to operate these infrastructures is missing. More so, the power infrastructures are all concentrated in the French speaking

parts of Cameroon which continue to experience some level of development and growth while the English speaking regions, remain perpetually abandoned and underdeveloped with a higher rate of unemployment in the entire country. Without proper energy, and the many rampant power cuts that sometimes go for more than three days, it is sure that poverty would increase, crime and lawlessness will increase in the streets and the general insecurity of the country will escalate to levels unexpected. In fact, the World Bank (2018) reported, “increasing energy access is key to Cameroon’s goal to become a middle-income, industrialized country with poverty levels below 10% by 2035. Energy is among the priority areas identified in the country’s growth and poverty reduction strategy, which emphasizes the need for agricultural diversification, increased productivity, and large-scale public investment projects with Cameroon having the third largest hydropower development potential in Sub-Saharan Africa, estimated at over 12,000MW, the deployment of hydropower resources holds the key to lowering the cost of electricity and ensuring that Cameroon’s economy is competitive”.

Fifty years after independence, Cameroon still has the poorest road network among many developing countries amid its sermons for emergence by 2035. Nation’s Encyclopedia (2019) summarized that Cameroon has a total of over 34,000 km of road network that is both at the urban and rural areas. In addition, Expart.com (2015) argues that instead, “Cameroon's road infrastructure consists of some 50,000 km of roads including 30,000 km of rural roads and 20,000 km of national, regional and local roads”. More so, only about 5000 km of these roads that makes only 10% of the entire national road network has been tarred. This means that movement in Cameroon especially in the rural areas is extremely difficult as sometimes, passengers are stuck in mud or trapped in terrible road conditions. The case is worse in the rainy season where heavy rains add more salt to the bad soup. This study thinks that the absence or collective negligence of governmental legislation in the rural road sector accounts for the high death toll that plagues these parts of the country as transporting patients for emergency medical attention is almost impossible. Most times, the deceased are buried without the direct intervention of family members who might require days of suffering under bad transport conditions to reach them. It has been reported many times that corpses being transported to their native villages were finally buried half way because buses transporting the corpses could reach their villages as a result of the bad roads.

Sadly, the death toll of Cameroonians both in the rural and urban centers continues to increase due to very poorly developed highways that are mostly plied by badly serviced cars that have outdated their circulation in the daily traffic. Mbodiam (2019) argues, “Since July 2017, practically not a day goes by without the notification of a deadly road accident in Cameroon. From East to West, North to South, road accidents, in the past two months, have claimed over one hundred lives and several injured, based on the figures from the Ministry of Transport”. Actually, he adds that over 100 Cameroonians are reported dead to road accidents in only two months and this account for over 80% of the total death result in Cameroon. This is pathetic for a country that has the entire mineral and work force resources to build the best roads in Africa and the world. Alas, corruption, embezzlement and the misappropriation of state funds claims the spoils and those left to suffer are the masses.

Following the growing fruitful relations that Cameroon and the European Union and France entreat, in 1999 France and the EU gave Cameroon over 35 billion Francs CFA (72 million USD) to tar roads (Nation’s Encyclopedia, 2019). It would be sad to note that nothing much was achieved with this money. Reports from Transparency International (2018) revealed Cameroon as of the year 2000 occupied the 84th position worldwide, which certainly means that much of the money was stolen and hidden abroad in safe heavens. Moving a little away from the road network whose discussions might never end, Cameroon also suffers from poor railway lines with only three major cities that benefit from rail ways not forgetting Chad and the Central African Republics which are connected to the nation’s national railway. Seat61 (2019) writes that Cameroon has three major cities which hub the national railway transport. Yaounde, Douala, and Ngoundere in the north are the three major cities which hub Camrail, the national rail carrier. Added to these cities are smaller pathways in Kumba, Mbanga and Edea. Until 2016, Cameroon operated locomotives that dated back as far as the 1970s and 1980s. Not wanting to renew the railway lines and buy new and modern trains, disaster struck in 2016 in Esseka, Edea, which left over 600 people dead when an eight-wagon locomotive drove off track and killed more than 70% of its passengers. The government denied the figures claiming only 80 were killed and sought for victims on whom to apportion the blame. However, “Cameroonian rail operator-Camrail and eleven other defendants were found guilty of involuntary manslaughter on Wednesday in connection with a train derailment that killed 79 people and wounded over 600 in

October 2016”. To calm tempers in the country and seek for more popular support, the government in January 2019 bought five new locomotives from General Electric with another 4 ordered (Burroughs, 2019). These are hoped to increase the rail transports and boost the trust that passengers will have for the government again. However, Cameroonians are not stupid and continue to question why the government has remained adamant to the growing demands for last generation railway lines as there are in developed countries and electric trains would ply that? This comes because of modern express intercity railways constructed and inaugurated by Senegal (Aderigibe, 2019) and Nigeria (Eckel, 2018). If these countries can have such modern transports why cannot Cameroon have its own, Cameroonians ask angrily. Nevertheless, the government has given no response and its adamancy and increasing corruption are eloquent testimony that modern trains as Cameroonians see in movies might not be coming to Cameroon in the next 50 years. Until then, they must continue to manage the locomotives they have been belabored with.

Cameroon has one of the largest port authorities in Africa and serves not only Cameroonians but also Congo, Chad and the Central African Republics. Due to the depth of the seaport that also happens to be one of the biggest in Africa, the Kribi seaport was built as a supplement and a diversification of Cameroon’s infrastructural prowess. This doubles as a means to create jobs and employment in order to reduce poverty in the country. However, despite having been the main international port for Congo, The Central African Republic and Chad, things seem to be going bad for the Douala International Seaport. This is because high levels of corruption, very high taxes, theft, extortion and the dishonesty of the seaport administration have contributed to driving away the aforementioned countries. In 2018, The Central African Republic officially made it known that they will not be dealing with the Cameroon Douala seaport anymore due to corruption. Ndifor (2018) adds in his report that “The Republic of Central Africa (RCA) has officially signed an accord with the Republic of Congo that will allow Central African importers to use Congo’s Pointe Noire Port, making Central Africa another country to abandon the Douala Seaport due to corruption and insecurity in Cameroon”. Kindzeka (2019) adds that the high corruption promoted by the police and gendarmes both at the seaport and on national highways is one of the reasons why these countries are leaving Cameroon for Point-Noir in Congo as an alternative. Secondly, the port is accused of having old equipment and infrastructures

that do not currently work well and the services provided are a shame and a disgrace to Cameroon.

Another straw on the back of the belated country is its national airline Carrier, Camair.Co that has suffered major blows lately. Cameroon has three international airports namely, Yaoundé Nsimalen, Douala international airport and the Maroua international airports. They are also supported by five other national airports that are in terrible conditions. The airport in Bafut, North West Region of Cameroon has been both a national and international disgrace with grasses and massive potholes perceived on the runway. The airport in Baffoussam, West Region is no better either and this is a country that will hypothetically be hosting the 2021 African Nation's Cup after it lost its 2019 hosting rights to Egypt. Its wondered by this study where tourists and the large population that was aiming to enter Cameroon for the event would have entered and where they would have been accommodated seeing that the country lacks a considerable number and quality of hotels. To make matters worse Camair.Co's operational license was withdrawn in January (2019) this year and declared internationally unsafe to fly to any country and that includes African countries as well. In 2016, the company's Boeing 767 was grounded in Ethiopia following a routine check. Pefok (2016) adds that firstly the Dja is Cameroon's largest fleet and shuttles between Cameroon and Paris and between Paris and Cameroon. Thus "during intensive technical control of The Dja at the Ethiopian Airlines' hangar in Addis Ababa, it was discovered that some parts of the airplane had suffered from corrosion, hence necessitating a corrosion repair. Technical experts traced the cause of the corrosion to the three-year period (May 2008 to early 2011) that The Dja was grounded at the Douala International Airport, following the closure of Cameroon Airlines". The company bounced back to normalcy with two Chinese aircrafts bought in 2016 as it claimed but in 2019 it was once again banned from entering Europe (CameroonWeb, 2016-2019).

From the discussions above it can be seen that Cameroon does not naturally lack the capacity to do well with its infrastructure and provide good services and good life to its citizens. However, as a result of corruption and embezzlement the country has been brought down to its knees and its infrastructural decay weighs heavily on its citizens who don't only deserve the best but who are constantly forced to believe hypocritical sermons of an emerging economy.

4.2 Italy and Cameroon's Shared Economic Vision

The visit of the Italian president to Cameroon as discussed in chapter three marked a new era for economic exchanges that are marked to take the two countries to the next level of cooperation. Cameroon firstly, suffers from many setbacks in its economy, politics, and infrastructure, social and environmental aspects. Many Cameroonians cannot boast of enjoying having spent a night of bliss in a government owned house and even those who do live there might have a different testimony. The state of the houses is such a shame and a disgrace such that everyone in Cameroon presently struggles to build their own houses. This might have been a pressing factor on the table of decision makers because it seemed to be one of the pressing discussions between the delegations of the Italian government and those of their Cameroonian counterparts. Some of the ways to boost real estate and housing in Cameroon was taken by the “Pizzarotti Company which announced the construction of 10,000 low cost houses in Yaoundé”. Once again, as this study sees it major international projects are limited only to the French regions of Cameroon. Nevertheless, the housing project comes at a time when Cameroon badly needs to address issues related to pipe borne water that is a serious setback in the country. Actually, many Cameroonians in years past have died to Cholera whose outbreak was accused to bad drinking water and bad hygienic conditions that include no toilets or bad toilets. Djomassi, et al. (2013) reported for the National Surveillance Data on the Epistemology of Cholera in Cameroon “in 2010, 10,759 cholera cases were reported by 8 of the 10 regions in the country, with 657 deaths (case-fatality ratio [CFR], 6.1%). The ongoing cholera outbreak in Cameroon increased in intensity and geographic spread from 2010 to 2011”. Ngwa et al. (2016) add, “Recurrent cholera outbreaks have been reported in Cameroon since 1971. However, case fatality ratios remain high, and scientists do not have an optimal understanding of the epidemiology of the disease, due in part to the diversity of Cameroon's climate subzones and a lack of comprehensive data at the health district level”. Therefore, constructing 10,000 houses whose cost stands at 359 billion FCFA and to be financed by Intensa Sampalo banking group, carries the hopes of many that the government will proxy to this by constructing many portable water channels and clean toilets as well. If this is done, then it is more than certain that the disease outbreak will reduce or even go on extinction.

Added to this housing optimum arrangement, both countries continued to identify opportunities for business and potential areas for investment that will mutually benefit them both. For Italians they believed that the rail sector that is presently run by Bollore from France and another South African company might be a good sector as the country lacks modern rail tracks. Secondly, energy, telecommunications and agro-pastoral mechanization fell right on their tracks (Cameroon24.net, 2018). The introduction of mechanized systems of agriculture is a potential resource which will satisfy the failed promise made by Paul Biya in 2010 when he promises to build a tractor assembly plant in Ebolowa, South Region and Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon (Mulema, 2012). Since then that promise has volatilized and has remained a fain dream. Next, the Italians see Cameroon as a strategic spot in their urge to reconquering Africa after their first and last attempt in Abyssinia in the 1930s. However, this time economic appendages suite well to satisfy this old dream and Cameroon according to Italian President Matteralla's stands out among its peers. Cameroon happens to be one of the oil rich producing countries in the Gulf of Guinea and the petro politics of this region is bloody. Many great powers such as Nigeria, The USA, Russia and China are fighting hard to gain a spot in this region. As amazing as it might sound, Turkey has secured for itself a hot spot in Somalia that is super strategic in the troubling Horn of Africa. The countries in the Horn of Africa are not found in the Gulf of Guinea but their significance cannot be underemphasized. Therefore, seeing that many investors are entering Cameroon and most target the oil producing Rio Del Rey region, could Biya of Cameroon be selling Cameroon's oil rich Bakassi to Western powers in a bid to remain in power? This shall be discussed briefly below.

Other areas of economic interests to the Italians include brick manufacturing, food production, hotel development, and marketing Italian wine. A close look at the economic discussions between the two countries shows a one sided gain which tilts more to the Italians. This study sees that their economic prowess and culture will be heavily applied to Cameroon while Cameroon walks away only with a handful of infrastructural gains, which are themselves financed by the Italians. Is Cameroon for the second time being recolonized?

4.3 The Bakassi Oil Wells Hypothesis (assumption)

This study upon a careful analysis of the entrance of the Italians and other European powers to Cameroon who proxy economic relations thinks that there is more to it than see the eyes. However, before diving deep into the assumptions which looks at the strategic position of Bakassi, the oil producing hub of Cameroon, this study would firstly, like to make mention that, Cameroon is trying hard to diversify its partners. This means it is moving away from France that has disrupted or delay great economic, political, and mind control over its fourteen colonies for the past one hundred years. Worse of all even after the declaration of the so-called independence of its former colonies, France has maintained a solid grip on these fourteen countries. So, let this study begin by making a strong review of the “France-Afrique Accord de Corporation” in order words “The France-Africa Accord of Corporation” by which these fourteen African nations are bound by France.

Firstly, it is so important to note that under this “The France-Africa Accord of Corporation” no African country has full independence and according to the pact depends largely on France for many vital things. What this means is that none of the African countries has full sovereignty and still somehow depends on France in some sort of a neocolonial era or some kind of modern colonialism where the countries are said to be independent but in effect, they are not.

Unknown too many Cameroonians just like their brothers in the other former French colonies, the “The France-Africa Accord of Corporation” gives France the exclusive right and power over the economy, politics, mineral resources and education of Cameroon (Gueumo, 2017). These areas are strategic because they are capable of propelling any country forward if the leaders are visionaries. The first “France-Africa Accord of Corporation” was signed in 1959 between president Ahidjo of Cameroon and Charles De Gaulle of France in the evening of French Cameroon has then called La Republique Du Cameroun’s declaration of independence on January 1, 1960. The accord gave France the upper hand over Cameroon in everything and made Cameroon more of a modern slave with some rights but who must still look up to his mater for everything. In 1974 the accord was extended to include judiciary pursuits and this gave France the right to not only pursue international judiciary arrests of criminals who fled from France and sought refuge in Cameroon, but it also gave any French judge the

right to issue a warrant of arrest against any African president who was going against “The France-Africa Accord of Corporation”.

Gueumo (2017) adds that since its inception and ratification, no other French president citing Georges Pompidou, Giscard d'Estaing, François Mitterrand, and Nicolas Sarkozy could do anything. Now that Emmanuel Macron is in power, many Africans are hoping that he will put an end to it. Little do they know or care to remember that since 1959 there has been an inelastic continuity of the accord as presidents after president, administration after administration, have maintained a close fix on it seeing that it's the very life blood of France and France largely depends on the accord for raw materials, energy and financial power so as to maintain its status quo in the international system. If Africans therefore do not wake up and seize their independence by fire, blood or peaceful negotiation, then they should be sure of remaining in this slavery for the next eternity.

Now let us consider the articles of the accord below. Of all the articles it is important to note that the most intriguing is article 6 that has some daring guts and it has still wondered how African leaders signed such a document that sold out part of their sovereignty to this western nation.

4.4 “France-Afrique Accord de Corporation” (the France-Africa Accord of Corporation)

Article 2 which states with some unbelievable guts that “*les transactions entre le franc français et la monnaie de l'Union s'effectueront à un cours fixe, sur la base de la parité en vigueur*” in English meaning “*transactions between the French franc and the Union (all the countries in the West African Economic Community that use the France CFA-Chattered Financial Assistance) currency will be made at a fixed rate, on the basis of the parity in force*”. This is so impossible seeing that all former French colonies by default of their mineral deposits are largely richer than France and their currencies by the same default must be stronger than France. Knowing this defect, France made sure that it was able to come up to the same platform of its former colonies in order to maintain control over their resources and use it to give some strength to its currency. To elaborate more on this article, it continues “*les transactions entre la monnaie de l'Union et les devises autres que le franc français s'exécuteront au taux du marché des changes selon les dispositions convenues conformément à l'article 6 ci-après*” that is

“transactions between the currency of the Union and currencies other than the French franc will be carried out at the market rate exchange according to the provisions agreed in accordance with Article 6 below”.

Without wasting time, Article 6 section 1 states *“la France devra déterminer les choix politiques, économiques et socioculturels du Cameroun”* in English it means *“France shall determine the political, economic and sociocultural choices of Cameroon”* (Gueumo, 2017). This is preposterous! With France determining these very important areas of its former colonies, it means none of them will ever climb up to meaningful emergence in politics, economy social and cultural aspects, as France will always undermine them. More so, it means none of these countries will ever grow so powerful to the point that they might become a direct threat to its interest in the African continent. In fact, France hiding behind the EU went as far as contesting the results of the presidential election in the Congo when Felix Tshisekedi was declared winner of the January 2019 presidential elections.

Article 6 section 2 states *“la France devra battre une monnaie pour le Cameroun (as well as its former colonies), le FCFA”*, meaning *“France shall determine the currency of Cameroon, the FCFA- Franc CFA” (as well as its former)* (Gueumo, 2017). With this currency, France shall determine the exchange rates as discussed in article 2 above and shall make sure that the currency never gets too strong that it might threaten its economy. More so, France shall directly link its national economy and treasury to this economy so that it shall directly benefit from whatever transaction that these countries shall do. In a summary, these countries shall work and France shall reap the fruits, and the Lion share for that matter.

Article 6 section 3 *“la France devra orienter la détermination des programmes scolaires du Cameroun à tous les niveaux”* meaning *“France shall decide the educational orientation of Cameroon at all levels”* (Gueumo, 2017). This study thinks it's very clear that Cameroon must like its counterparts can never design educational programs that are geared at creative, analytic and pragmatic thinking whose progenies would be instilling technology and science in practical terms to support national development and advancement. If this happens, it means Cameroon might break away from the accord because of its newfound strength. So to protect their interests, France must be the one to choose what is taught to Cameroonians for fifty years marking from the date the accord was signed.

Article 6 section 4 “ *la France devra disposer dans son trésor public, d'un portefeuille appelé compte des opérations, de 100% des réserves de change du Cameroun. NB : ce pourcentage a évolué en 1972 et 1973 respectivement à Brazzaville et Dakar pour la BEAC et l'UMOA, à 65% et finalement aujourd'hui il se situe à 50%*” meaning “*France will have in its public treasury, a portfolio called the operations account, 100% of Cameroon's foreign exchange reserves.*”

NB: *this percentage evolved in 1972 and 1973 respectively in Brazzaville and Dakar for the BEAC and WAMU, to 65% and finally today it is at 50%*” (Gueumo, 2017). At this point it's clear that Cameroon dating back since 1959 does not control its own economy and its foreign exchange is controlled by France which so-called “keeps the money” in a so-called “operations account”. Are these countries too small or immature to keep their own money? France has always portrayed itself as the father and its colonies as children the reason why it even imposes on them to pay colonial taxes claiming these countries have to pay for the benefits of colonialism (Koutonin, 2014) forgetting that it abused the rights of these people and even killed millions of them.

Article 6 section 5 states “*les matières premières stratégiques du Cameroun devront être exploitées par la France en priorité. Si celles-ci n'est pas intéressée le Cameroun pourra trouver un autre partenaire où l'exploiter lui-même*”, meaning, “*Cameroon's strategic raw materials will have to be exploited by France as a priority. If they are not interested, Cameroon can find another partner to exploit it itself*” (Guemo, 2017). This article is the focal point of this section of this chapter that looks at the entrance of Western powers in Cameroon and asks if Cameroon is diverting from its traditional French partner who has sucked it so bad for the last fifty-eight years. In addition, the entrance of the Israelites, Iranians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Turkish and Italians is eloquent testimony that things are going bad for the “Accord de coopération” and just maybe Cameroon might be playing the political game to maximize its own profits for its personal use which in times past, were under the full enjoyment potential of France. Under this bid to diversify its partners, Cameroon opened its doors to potential investors and in 2014 The British were given the right to privatization to control Cameroon's electricity company SONEL (CameroonWeb, 2014). However, the “Accord de coopération” still insists that permission must be gotten from France before this happens.

Article 6 section 6 states *“le 10 novembre 1961: l'assistance militaire. Chaque fois que le président camerounais sera débordé par une agression externe ou une rébellion Interne, il pourra faire appel à l'aide militaire de la France.*

S'il n'est plus dans la capacité de le faire par un quelconque moyen de communication, l'ambassadeur de France au Cameroun peut le faire à la place de l'autorité camerounaise” meaning *“November 10, 1961: military assistance. Whenever the Cameroonian president is overwhelmed by external aggression or internal rebellion, he can call on French military aid.*

If he is no longer in the capacity to do it by any means of communication, the French ambassador to Cameroon can do it in place of the Cameroonian authority”. It's as a result of this article that France has been actively engaged in intervening in other French colonies such as Mali, Senegal, and most importantly, the Central African Republic, where French troops have always deposed a president or assisted another in a coup. Since 1964 since David Dacko first president of the country was deposed in a coup by his half-brother, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, this has become the political culture of the country and nothing good has happened in the country since then. Similarly, though not a French colony, Congo has suffered the same since its independence and the worse continues to happen.

These articles are just a summary of the 14 that define the military, economy and Judiciary Corporation between France and its fourteen colonies. Now coming back to the discourse about the oil rich Bakassi of Cameroon, it is worth noting that this spot has been the hot zone of interests of firstly, the Cameroonian leaders who enrich themselves from the fat of its providence and allow the population suffers.

Secondly, France maintains a grip over this territory because it directly enjoys the cheap oil it buys. Thirdly, the Anglophone uprising in Cameroon is a prominent fact that the Anglophones, mad at the bad governance they have been subjected to since 1961 have decided to deal with the problem directly and create their own state. However, they need to lay hands on this black gold to cement their place as a sovereign state in the world. These therefore, mean that so much contention has been recurring between the government of Cameroon and the armed separatist fighters. At the same time, Western powers see it as an opportunity to get their fair share, possibly the reason

why Italy has made its way into the system claiming to be a friend of Cameroon (martine 2019).

Following the assumption developed above in line with the depleting France-African Accords of 1959 it is certain that Cameroon at this time might be looking for different partners in order to maximize its economic, energy, and political, cultural and social gains. Remaining with France will only bring no small loss and regression to Cameroon that for the past 57 years might not have anything to show to its ever-waiting citizens. Therefore, this thesis is of the opinion that the entrance of Italy among other western powers to Cameroon is eloquent testimony that the re-conquest for Africa is one. However, most importantly, conspiracy theorists are also of the opinion that the economic relations of Cameroon and Italy at this time are simply synonymous to the last kicks of a dying horse-speaking of the president of Cameroon who is 87 years old and has been in power since 1982. According to this class, the Paul Biya knows that his days as president of Cameroon are numbered and the current Anglophone crisis and the post 2018 electoral crisis reveals that his grip on power has lost its tenacity. Meaning anytime from now he might be losing it all.

So, this thesis explains following the ring of occurrences that are happening in Cameroon and in the contested Gulf of Guinea, Cameroon stands strategic because it finds itself in the ring of power, political stability and economic prowess in the Gulf of Guinea.

From the above explanations, we can see that France is still practicing neocolonialism within its former colonies. This is because from the “Accord de corporation”, Cameroon is still answerable to France and the only thing that can separate or end this accord can only be a good relationship with new countries. Thus, the presence and participation of these countries will reduce the powers of France and therefore bring development within the country.

5. SUSTANABLE GOALS OF CAMEROON AND LESSONS TO DRAW FROM THE CAMEROON-ITALIAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

This chapter will briefly discuss the sustainable development goals of Cameroon vis-à-vis what it plans to achieve by the year 2035. Secondly, it will discuss the lessons that Cameroon has to learn from the economic partnership that is not new per se but is stronger at this time.

5.1 Sustainable Development Goals for Cameroon

The republic of Cameroon just as other former French colonies anxiously aimed at bringing them to an expected economic emergence and rise to global dominance. These have been aired thousands of times in the local media, and have become the subject of most political speeches and propaganda. Regimes have used it as a strong policy tool to codify laws that stop their citizens from ever protesting for whatsoever, questioning the government's decisions and even daring to support foreign powers that might not be happy with the domestic policies these countries pursue. A good example to this fact is Cameroon that in 2015 passed the bill protesting popular protests and uprisings. The penalty attached to this crime that is considered an act of terrorism is death (Johnson, 2014). Secondly, this idea or slogan for emergence has been used as a diversion from the real problems in the country. The rising calls of youths for democracy and good governance does not go missing in most Sub-Saharan African countries. Therefore, most times, these governments to stop or reduce the ferocity of these calls have used the emergence rhetoric. Gavin (2019) reports that violent uprisings and repressions have continued in Togo and Gabon where the youths so tired of the never ending lies of economic emergence have decided to face the tanks and wraths of their governments and their brutal military. Cameroon has not been indifferent either however, the pressure mounting from the north where Boko Haram rages, the east, where the Seleka and Anti-balaka rebels rage, the South West and North Westerns regions of Cameroon that fight to the death for their independence, is

eloquent testimony that the tables have turned and just maybe the so-called 2035 vision for economic emergence is a farce.

In 2009, the Cameroon Ministry for Economy and Regional Development developed a plan that would put Cameroon on top of its challenges and ahead of its mates in the changing global order. This plan had the following key objectives “reducing poverty to minimal levels; becoming a middle-income country; becoming a newly industrialized country; and consolidating democracy and enhancing national unity (The London School of Economics and Political Science, 2009). This policy didn’t leave the youths indifferent who were of divergent desires and thoughts about how the government would achieve them in a country where over 70% of the youths are unemployed (World Bank, 2012, Trading Economics, 2018). The objectives mentioned above were coined “Great Ambitions Goals for 2035” by the regime in power, otherwise called the “New Deal Regime”. To achieve these objectives, it meant that the government would heavily invest in the public sector, develop its human capital, create employment opportunities, renew its investment laws in order to attract foreign direct investment, create a state of law where the constitutions is respected and upheld by the oligarchy, respect and promote human rights which is a bad dream in Cameroon, allow democracy a chance as well as give democratic institutions their true place and vitality to discharge the exercises given to them.

If these are all achieved, then the government of Cameroon can be proud to say that it is matching forward to achieve its dream of becoming an economic hub by 2035. Alas, that has not been the case and though Cameroon continues to seek for foreign partners such as Italy, South Korea, China, Vietnam and recently Turkey, there is still a strong violation of human rights in the country, unemployment is drastically high, democracy is a sham that flies away in the face of logic, the long promised industries are never coming, corruption is in an all-time high, crime and insecurity continues to soar especially since Cameroon is fighting two wars as mentioned above.

The simple question many Cameroonians ask is what place the youths occupy in this Great Ambition Plan if they cannot be employed by the state. Lo-oh (2014) makes a case for the Cameroonian youths that are trapped in this vague emergence rhetoric. He says the Cameroonian “youths have the capacity to stir change if given the opportunity” however, “they are always marginalized”. The marginalization comes because of the despicable tribalism and ethnic bias that rages strong within the ranks

of the government. Consequently, the youths have resulted to personally engage in the “fight to define their own identities”. Nevertheless, seeing that things are going from bad to worse and the economic operations of the government doesn’t benefit them in any way, the youths might have developed the intent to disturb and disrupt the society and all economic developments embarked on. Thus, the current civil war in Cameroon attests to this point that the English speaking youths have had enough of their government and want out of the corrupt system that has killed thousands of Cameroonians to the dictatorship of Paul Biya, the president. Journal du Cameroon (2019) following an over two hours hearing at the United Nations Security Council that was held exclusively on Cameroon reports that over 2000 Anglophone Cameroonians have been killed in over 20 months since the Anglophones rose up against the serious mismanagement of the state.

Lo-oh (2014) adds that the “2035 Vision” is “the most popular and most ambitious national agenda Cameroon has had in almost three decades” (Lo-oh cited Biya, 2009; 2010; 2012) and since its inception in 2007 it has been the most virulent song on the mainstream media. Sadly, the failures it has recurred prove that it might just be a propaganda developed by the government to appease the angry youths who had once confronted the government in four days sit down nationwide strike in 2008.

5.2 Steps to Achieve the 2035 Vision.

Lo-oh (2014) looks at the following steps as the way out to achieve the 2035 vision goals of the government. Firstly, it should be said that regardless of the international economic partners that Cameroon is making at this time which is not bad per se, if the fruits of these economic relations are not seen and enjoyed by the common man down the line, they are hitherto, vain and devoid of rational reasoning.

For the 2035 vision goals to be a success and match the objectives for the Cameroon-Italy economic relations as discussed in chapter three and four, economic growth and diversification is imperative. To achieve this Lo-oh (2014) looks at steps that the government had taken some years back before officially cementing its relations with Italy as discussed in the previous chapters. In order to diversify the economy and ascertain growth the government of Cameroon developed the “Growth and employment strategy (GESP) which embodies the major steps in the first decade of implementing the ambitious visions of 2035” (Lo-oh, 2014). Secondly, the president

of the republic encouraged the youths to participate in growth and national development and to support them he promised in 2018 to create over 500.000 jobs in 2019 (Business in Cameroon, 2019). Unfortunately, this promise failed like its predecessors and unemployment remains high.

Sometimes in 2012, Paul Biya had urged the youths to stop complaining and engage themselves in agriculture that according to him was a targeted area for economic development and a fight against youth unemployment (Biya, 2012). To solidify this urge allusion was made about the tractor assembly plant he had promised in the Ebolowa agro pastoral show in 2011. Though the plant is in operation and has assembled over 996 of the 1.000 (Zang, 2018) tractors expected much has not been achieved as youth unemployment remains high. More so, mechanized farming remains a new idea to many Cameroonians who still depend on the harsh manual work to cultivate their food. Therefore, this study thinks that overall the steps taken by the government to achieve the reduction of unemployment and the introduction of mechanized agriculture remains considerably low and to some people unrealistic. Unrealistic because the high rates of poverty make sure that many people cannot afford the tractors thought they are locally assembled. Therefore, for as long as salaries are shamefully low and many roads to the hinterlands remain undeveloped, hunger and poverty remain the sad reality to many Cameroonians. Finally, only a select few will be able to purchase these tractors and will be able to develop their agriculture.

The next step the government took to materialize its 2035 vision goals was the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which was aimed at defining the overall framework for its development policies (Lo-oh, 2014 cited Ezekwesili, Nolan and Ghura, 2010). This program was initiated in 2003 and by 2007, consultations were held to 'update' it and evaluate how much had been achieved. Lo-oh (2014) explains that upon the consultations it was concluded that nothing or not much had been achieved to reduce poverty in Cameroon. At the same time, many state officials and ministers were arrested and jailed for corruption and embezzlement of state funds. Olivier (2016) reported that in 2004-2007 that is shortly after this program was codified by the government Yves Michelle Fotso was arrested and sentenced to 25 years in prison for embezzling 50 million euros (33billion FCFA). Similarly, Jean Marie Atangana Mebara sentenced to 20 years in jail for embezzling 4.4 million euros (2.8 billion FCFA), Ephraim Inoni former prime minister sentenced to 20 years in prison for

embezzling 287.4 million FCFA, Marafa Hamidou Yaya former minister of territorial administration for embezzling over 24 billion FCFA, Polycarp Abah Abah sentenced to 20 years in prison for embezzling 12 million euros (7.8 billion FCFA) and the list goes on. According to this study, the fact that the consultations of 2007 tied with the arrests of these government's heavy weights simply testifies that the resources allocated for the implementation and success of the poverty reduction strategy paper in view of the 2035 vision, were simply syphoned and kept in private pockets.

This study asks that with this high corruption will the new economic visions of Cameroon and Italy be realistic to the local youths down the ladder who have badly suffered from the tenets of bad governance.

Therefore, it can be said that the route to the 2035 sustainable Goals is unrealistic because the government hasn't transcended above "calamity" (Lo-oh, 2014 cited Nsamenang, 2007) because its actions are considered by this study to be victimizing the youths and the poor majority down the ladder who are constantly victims of organized crime and collective violence. However, the government preaches democracy and all governmental propaganda claims Cameroon is a democratic state, arbitrary arrests, and the violent crackdown of protesters reveals the revers. Extra judicial killings and the abuse of freedom of speech continues to be a political culture in Cameroon. Therefore, this study worries that how can a nation progress if the basic rights of the citizen are constantly abused and how meaningful can the 2035 vision be if the people are badly maimed by their government? Lastly, by the time the nation eventually gets to its 2035 touch line, if it ever would, what would it get there with when it continues to maim its citizens as it did after the 2018 presidential elections (Maclean, 2019).

5.3 Lessons to Draw from the Economic Cooperation

As discussed above, Cameroon is struggling seriously with too many internal setbacks that impede it from achieving its sustainable goals slated for 2035. However, there is so much Cameroon has to learn from Italy in order to achieve this goal. This study does not insinuate that everything about Italy must be copied or that Italy was not built in one day. This study simply means that the necessary components of state building that Italy has practiced over the years which is working for it must be copied by Cameroon and put to practice for the country to advance.

The first area Cameroon must surely copy from and lessons it must surely learn is within its economy and infrastural development. When compared to Cameroon Italy is by far a developed country that practices the alternation of governments and administrations than Cameroon has ever had or done. Actually, Cameroon has had only two presidents since gaining independence in 1960. Ahmadou Ahidjo its first president ruled from 1959 to 1982 and handed power to President Paul Biya who has ruled since November 6th, 1982.

5.3.1 Limiting opposition parties

Democracy is a sham in Cameroon and though the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) claims that its democratic and it follows democratic norms to rule the country, the constitution has been modified two times to keep the president in power. Furthermore, the ruling CPDM depends largely on rigging elections to remain in power (Freedom House, 2018). In short, this study thinks that considering the literatures that state that after thirty-five years in power, Paul Biya cannot win an election because he has rigged his way through to remain in power. Furthermore, the democracy Biya and his CPDM preaches doesn't make sense since his government has been accused seriously for misappropriating state resources in order to fund political patronage (Freedom House, 2018). In addition, Cameroon must learn from Italy how to treat opposition parties and members of the opposition who despite having divergent views from that of the ruling party still have much to contribute to nation building and economic development. Opposition parties in Cameroon suffer greatly in the hands of the ruling party because they are always coerced for speaking up against the ills of the ruling party that is very tribalistic and corrupt. Following the post presidential elections of 2019, "Cameroon's main opposition leader Maurice Kamto, chairman of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (M.R.C) has been charged with sedition, insurrection and inciting violence" (Aljazeera, 2019). Aljazeera (2019) adds that he faces eight charges against him and might be sentenced to death according to the 2014 anti-terrorism law that forbids protests. Maurice Kamto had earlier declared himself the winner of the 2018 presidential elections and refused to recognize the results that were read by the constitutional court that declared Paul Biya winner meaning president for life (africanews, 2018). Similarly, Kah Walla a prominent opposition leader was badly man handled by the government when she raised her voice against bad governance and

against the atrocities, the government is perpetrating in the two English-speaking regions (Enow, 2018).

5.3.2 Human rights violations

Human right violations have been a political culture in Cameroon and most times, they go unpunished by the state since the perpetrator is the state its self. Torture and other forms of human rights violations are very rampant in every sector of the country. Some of them include sexual abuse of minors (Menick, 2002), ritual crimes and the gruesome extortion of human organs (Naij.com, 2013), arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings (Amnesty International, 2018a). Cameroon has been badly accused of torturing people suspected without proof of supporting Boko Haram in the north of Cameroon. The US drones in late 2018 showed aerial photos of torture chambers owned by the Cameroon military (Amnesty International, 2018b). Similarly, a shocking video circulated in late 2018 where the Cameroon army was seen shooting at three women with children whom they accused to have links with Boko Haram (Turse, 2018). This act pushed the US to withdraw over 300 soldiers whom it had stationed in the north to help train the Cameroon army to combat the terrorists. In addition, military aid worth 70 million dollars was cut off. Following the socioeconomic and sociopolitical crises in the two Anglophone regions of Cameroon much has not changed. The Cameroon army has burned over 270 villages and killed over 2000 unarmed civilians who stood up against bad governance (Ajumane, 2018). Similarly, internet was cut down for more than 93 days by state that is from January to April, 2018 in order to prevent gruesome pictures of mass murders by the government from circulating on the internet and thus, exposing the atrocities of the government (Freedom House, 2018a).

There have been reports of ritual crimes being perpetrated in Cameroon by unknown individuals who until date walk free. Amid the many investigations carried out, none has caught any culprit. Alas, the number of babies who go missing in public and private hospitals intensifies; the number of lifeless bodies with their genitals and other vital organs missing that lingers in the streets of Cameroon continues to trend in the mainstream media. As if this is not enough, the 2014 law prohibiting protests which the government considers and act of terrorism, holds many bound and unable to question the authority of the state vis-à-vis these acts. On the other hand, it helps the government to maintain its status quo while holding the people in a state of

speechlessness as everyone fears for their lives. Who is perpetrating these ritual crimes and why the state is so silent and dormant about it, remains a serious question in the lips of Cameroonians, who do not understand the kind of occult networks they might be subjected with? Unlike Nigeria which is said to have one of the highest ritual killings in Africa and somewhat a social culture according to some authors (Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2012), Cameroon has equally been on the news as ritual crimes intensify. Usman (2017) reports that the demand for human parts is on the rise and these become hot cakes when elections are close. The reason is that politicians and other actors at the head of the state go in for more ritual practices in order to preserve their positions or acquire new ones. Le SPHINX EDITIONS (2001 citing Angounou, 1993) adds that the Cameroonian presidential palace is a satanic and devilish kingdom where all kinds of occult rituals are perpetrated. These practices according to him are orchestrated by close aids to the president and head of state in a bid to consolidate their power and usurp more control over the masses. He adds in the book he wrote which he titled, “Le vrai visage de paul Biya, la mort de Jeanne irene, le pacte avec Ahidjo....” that is “the true image of paul biya, the death of Jeanne Irene, the pact with Ahidjo Irene, that the president of the Republic might have gotten into some act of intense homosexual activity with his predecessor, the late El Hadj Amadou Ahidjo who used it as a pat to hold him subordinate though bequeathing power to him. This act of sodomy was used as a magical-anal rationale to keep him humble and submissive to his immediate authority. Other African presidents to keep their subordinates submissive and ever attentive to the directions of the president have used the same act. One of such who is popularly cited is the late Omar Bongo of Gabon. Bernault (2019) accounts that the latter was a dictator who ruled his country for over forty-one years like a private estate. In order to maintain both physical and spiritual control over his nation he founded the Grand Lodge of Gabon and the Grand Equatorial Rite which contains some over 1.000 members today (Freemasonry, 2019). Freemasonry (2019) adds that for anyone to be appointed to any position in Gabon or to become anything useful and meaningful in the state, they must belong to one of these cults, which are extension of the Grand Lodge of France. These ones must also be ready to surrender themselves to the homosexual network that enshrouds the government in order to ascend higher. The failure to do is detrimental to the person involved and may mean excommunication regardless of their skills and talents.

In the same light, the late Angounou (The SPHINX EDITIONS, 2001, cited Angounou, 1993) explained that a series of homosexual networks have been installed at all the ranks of the Cameroon state whereby no one can ascend to any position of authority in the country, unless, such as one surrenders his anal to the network. Furthermore, no one can become anything unless he pays allegiance to either the freemasons or the rose cross fraternities. The account of Angounou is trustworthy because he was one time a close confidant of the incumbent president of the republic of Cameroon, Paul Biya. No matter how convincing the book is, many distrusted it and called it fake. Nevertheless, in 2012 another book was released which did not only cement the accounts of Ebale Angounou but provided deeper insights about the occult and savagely endemic satanic ecosphere of the Cameroon under the auspices of the ruling party and regime. Engo (2015 citing Edzoa, 2012) makes a summary of a book titled “Meditations en prison: Echoes de mes silence” that is “Meditations in prison: Echoes of my silence” by Professor Titus Edzoa; one-time minister of public health of Cameroon, personal physician of the incumbent president of the republic, and one-time minister secretary general at the presidency of the republic. The latter was jailed for 12 years when he declared his intentions to run for president in 1997. In the book that cements that of Ebale Angounou as mentioned above, he reports, “the Cameroon nation is ruled by a satanic kingdom whose base is at the presidency of the republic”. Furthermore, he adds that top government officials literally eat human flesh and drink human blood, sleep with corpses that are mystically treated and kept in their homes, perform pedophilia, exchange wives one to another and practice a high level of homosexuality and bestiality not for pleasure, rather for mystical reasons”. He explains that these government officials in order to keep their jobs or get better and higher assignments must do this to belong. More so, he accuses these practitioners of the many ritual crimes that beset the country and adds that to gain more mystical powers, human organs and genitals are indispensable in the ritual practices. As if this is not frightening enough, he adds that in order for the human organs to be powerful and effective for whatsoever reason they are extracted, they must be extracted while the victim is alive. What this means is that the victims undergo the most excruciating pain ever as they are alive to witness the extraction of their body parts. If the parts are extracted after the victim is dead, they will be of no power and the exercise must be repeated again with another victim.

Edzoa's account reveals why no investigation by the police and the gendarmes has ever resulted to anything because the perpetrators of the ritual crimes are the very ones who have taken the oath of office to preserve and protect the interests of the state. This study is sure to say that such an account reveals that the government of Cameroon is enshrined in the act of organized crime and state orchestrated violence against its citizens for whom it cares less. More so, this collective violence by a select few reveals that the ruling government might have little or nothing to offer to its citizens because in developed countries, it is a political culture to provide political goods such as good infrastructure, security, good health care, viable and dependable laws, etc. that assure the citizens that their government has them at heart. However, it is the total opposite with Cameroon. Strong states such as most Western and North American countries that are conscious of their developments continue to reforms always that help to pacify interpersonal human relations, draw them closer to one another and their state. Such political goods and the welfare of the citizens are foundational steps that generate an unbeatable spirit of nationalism and patriotism. For these developed countries, reforms are meant to improve their laws regarding national security, economy, social and welfare services, military, diplomatic relations and environmental activities. Actually, these nations are well suitable for the deliverance of equitable political goods whereby their citizens benefit from the practice of good governance, the respect for human rights, the equal distribution of goods and services and the equal sharing of funds gotten from the extraction of natural resources. Rotberg (2011) explains that the provision of these political goods is what differentiates strong states from weak states and failed states. Apparently, with the current happenings in Cameroon and seeing how much the economy suffers, Cameroon falls under the category of a failed state because its centralized government lacks the political legitimacy to maintain control over its entire national territory.

On the other hand, its economic partner Italy scores higher in many things regarding the deliverance of political goods, political legitimacy and the deliverance of its territorial security apparatus to its citizens. Therefore, it must be belabored that Cameroon must need copy from Italy if peradventure; it will regain control over its entire national territory.

5.3.3 Legislation regulations

The Cameroon constitutional law requires that the national assembly must vote bills before they become law. This means the president of the republic must consult with the lawmakers before passing any law. However, that has never been the case as most times, the national assembly and the senate have acted on the orders of the ruling CPDM. Freedom House (2018a) reports that most of the laws in the country are by presidential decree and most times, the locals and the nation in general is not consulted before the laws are passed. At the end of it all, the law mostly favors the great and mighty at the top by disfavor the majority down who mostly, fall below the average. Furthermore, Cameroon unlike Italy that is highly politically pluralistic lacks political pluralism (existence of two or more states to coexist). Freedom House (2018a) adds that the political pluralism of the country depends on the mood and discretion of the government and opposition leaders who dare to contend with the government's positions, risk arrests and imprisonment. Most times, unthinkable charges are laid against them that do not correspond to the 'misdemeanors' (wrongdoings) they allegedly perpetrated.

Since 1960 When French Cameroon became independent, and 1961 when the British Southern Cameroon gained quasi-independence with the option of joining either Nigeria or French Cameroon to become fully independent, both Cameroon's have suffered decade long abuses of constitutional coups. The two presidents who have ruled the country since then have personally mandated these coups. Not wanting to leave power, the incumbent president, Paul Biya, who has been in power since November 6, 1982 has made sure that the law prohibiting him from running for a third term in power was modified and the limits lifted so that he rules for life. After having modified the constitution in 1984, Paul Biya went ahead to modify the 1996 Constitution item 2 which opened him doors to remain in power for not only a third term but rather for life (Rfi English, 2008). With these constant constitutional abuses, there is a surety that Cameroon is not only devoid of legal reasoning but is largely deficient when it comes to providing rational legislative laws that hold the constitution high and to be respected. Therefore, this study believes that Cameroon largely qualifies to be called a failed state because its centralized government makes everything possible to ruin the lives of its citizens for the welfare of the apathetic regime in power.

From this standpoint, this study rates Cameroon on an all-time low and encourages Cameroon to learn from Italy and make use of its diversity to promote national unity and solidarity, national tolerance and state development which is not devoid of economic growth and diversification. More so, this study authoritatively believes that for as long as Cameroon fails to ameliorate the above mentioned, its match to its “2035 Vision” is an aimless one.



6. CONCLUSION

Cameroon has lagged so much for the past 28 years after its independence from France. Furthermore, Cameroon's step to develop its industry and improve its bilateral relations with other countries is eloquent testimony that Cameroon has come of age to break away from the perilous France Afrique mentioned in the chapter four. Furthermore, the sustainable goals of Cameroon are just fine and really target the problems where they rightly are but the approach taken to satisfy these goals is very erratic and misses the point of complimentary application. In addition, for as long as corruption and the misappropriation of state funds continues to linger around, the economic partnerships of Cameroon will mostly benefit the political laity while the masses will despondently suffer.

This study is able to discover that Cameroon is trying to move away from its former colonial master France due to its incapability to assist or allow them grow since the past 58 years after its independence, and open new relations with countries (Italy) who is willing to assist and improved on its economic and infrastructural development

This study therefore, was able to find out that Cameroon is working hard to progress and develop bilateral relations with countries that surpass it in many things and sectors such as economy, military and politics. Furthermore, the study found out that Cameroon had been entreating diplomatic and economic relations with Italy since the 1970s. However, the relations got to their peak when the two presidents exchanged visits to each other. More so, the study acclaims the construction of basic sporting, housing, energy and transport infrastructure that remains a debilitating problem to Cameroon. However, the study concludes that unless meaningful dialogue is called by the central government and its opposition parties not forgetting the two warring Anglophone regions, Cameroon will eventually shrink and split up to many parts. As of now, the study thinks that the country is on a boiling magma whose eruption cannot be bypassed.

Chapter two helps to define liberalism and discuss in details the concept of neoliberalism having at its focus and epicenter the political and economic diplomatic

relations that have occurred between Cameroon and Italy. Firstly, it shall consider the definition of neoliberalism, it will also question who or what the referent object is, then it will discuss the origin of neoliberal studies and hence the arguments of neoliberalism in international relations.

Chapter Three discussed the diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Italy vis-à-vis some of the challenges both countries have been having. More specifically a brief history of the relations between Cameroon and Italy, phases of the diplomatic relations, visa challenges in Cameroon and the salvation to visa problems following the visits of the Italian president to Cameroon and likewise the visit of the Cameroonian president to Italy were reviewed. This makes us understand that France is still practicing neocolonialism within its former colonies. This is because from the “Accord de corporation”, Cameroon is still answerable to France and the only thing that can separate or end this accord can only be a good relationship with new countries. Thus, the presence and participation of these countries will reduce the powers of France and therefore bring development within the country. Therefore, Cameroon in trying to ease the visa resolutions is to encourage many Italian investors to the land so that they could develop an interest in investing within the country. This could also strengthen their relations.

From the literature reviews and considering the many economic partners that Cameroon now has as compared to its yesteryears, this study would like to make the hypothesis that “the development of relations between Cameroon and Italy in the 21st century is an indication that France might be losing its grip on its former colonies”.

For the bilateral relations between Cameroon and Italy, we can see that the relations started since in 1960 when French Cameroon got its independence, though it was closed in 1965 and later in 1974 open again, which was more strengthened in 1984 and even more in 2017. Therefore, rebuilding every year will not be the solution, but the seriousness’ on both parties will help strengthen the relations.

From the above explanations, we can see that as both countries are trying to build a strong relationship, the Italians since 1996 through the Focolary movement had done a lot to its population, though they could not do all due to some political reasons. As the government tries to make the Italian language official, and by making certificates

recognized by both countries, and the release of some restrictions on visa, will help build a better relationship between the two countries.

Chapter four discusses the infrastructural challenges that Cameroon faces. Secondly, it looks at the economic vision that Cameroon and Italy share vis-à-vis these challenges and lastly, it will ask if Paul Biya, Cameroon's president is selling Cameroon's oil rich region, Bakassi, to the West. For the cancelation of debts by Italian government and with the idea of the construction of 10,000 houses with the cost of 359 billion CFA (Central African Franc) is a great move showing that Italian government is interested in the relations and ready to build the infrastructural challenges of Cameroon. It should be known that no matter the offers by the Italian government, if the Cameroonian system were not transparent, they would remain stagnant.

Chapter five discusses the sustainable development goals of Cameroon vis-à-vis what it plans to achieve by the year 2035. Secondly, it discusses the lessons that Cameroon has to learn from the economic partnership that is not new per se but is stronger at this time. Looking at the sustainable goals Cameroon has gain little or much within the times of this relation though corruption and embezzlement has hindered the citizens of the country from benefiting from this offers. It can be confirming that Cameroon has less interest of development within this relation, why Italy has a greater aim of sustaining the relations with greater gain.

In all Cameroon has an opportunity to grow or improve on it development in Economic, Education, and infrastructural developments. Therefore, if the Cameroon government believed and stood for bilateral relations, they will have improved and it will be an opportunity to kick France out with it Economy, though it is impossible because President Paul Biya will always play around to be with France so as to remain in power.

Although the secondary analysis was use to gather material for this thesis, I face some difficulties in getting the information. Firstly, the political struggle that has brought Cameroon into an internal conflict made things difficult in getting information, as many fear on which you are taking the information to as where he or she might end.

In addition, the quest for the restoration of independence by Southern Cameroon, which in 1961 got it independence by joining French Cameroon and now fighting to

be independent, because of negligence by the government and forceful implementation of the French law which is not and was not part of their law before independence. This has made things worse as most of the government offices are closed, libraries, among others. This made things as difficult for me as I could only provide an authorization letter signed by the institute, bearing my topic and my Cameroonian Identification card and passport number and the Turkish Residence in order to get information or have access to private or public libraries.

More the restriction of press within Cameroon has brought among many intellectuals, who by fear of arrest cannot publish their article or give and information out, made things very difficult for me. That is many were unpublished articles had access to get them, which to me were useless, and the few that were published bureaucracy limited me from using them. I could only get written thesis faster and the few that had little bureaucracy.

Furthermore, the lack of information due to limited internet in Cameroon, restriction on freedom of speech and press, has made many Cameroonians to write little articles between Cameroon and other international bodies or countries. This is because it's difficult to get material or how to get books within online or internet. This made me to face many difficulties in having materials in writing my thesis.

More, the determination of the Cameroon system of education by the French due to the French "Accord de cooperation" has made French language to dominate the country despite the fact that Cameroon is a bilingual country with English and French. This has made most of the articles been published in French, which it took me time to read and translate into English, which was my language of writing.

Finally, the lack of books on Cameroon within the library of Istanbul Aydin university also made me to seek or go for more research in reading articles and mostly especially going back home to access the public Library and some of the state's Universities in order to have the material I use. Because little have written between Cameroon and Italy, which made things very difficult for me in getting fast material in any library or achieves.

To conclude though I faced the above challenges, I was able to have at list 80% of what I needed to write my thesis. Therefore, I encourage the Cameroonian government to respect it constitution so that other students can easily move freely within the

country, interview without fear, have access to the library both private and public without any hindrance. These will encourage Cameroonian students within the international relations department being it in Istanbul or other universities in different countries to write more about their country.



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