



Intra-Party Governance in Tanzania's Ruling Party



EIMAS
EUROPEAN INTERDISCIPLINARY
MASTER AFRICAN STUDIES
Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree

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Introduction

- Tanzania's political landscape is dominated by a single party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), for over four decades.
- It spans from the one-party state 1977 and multiparty era beginning 1995 to present.
- Political parties are critical in democracy promotion.
- Intraparty governance is essential for any democratic state as democracy can not be held by parties with undemocratic structures and processes.

Research Objectives and Objectives

- This study explored intra-party governance in the CCM by focusing on intra-party democracy (IPD) through the lens of conflict resolution.
- Its key research questions included;
 1. To what extent does the resolution of intraparty conflicts reflect CCM's commitment to IPD?
 2. How can party leadership improve internal democracy when addressing conflicts?
 3. How do different conflict resolution mechanisms affect IPD?
 4. Is intra-party democracy achievable in dominant ruling parties like CCM?

Theoretical Framework

- The study was guided by an American Political Economist Albert O. Hirschman's theory on 'Exit, Voice and Loyalty' which explains how members respond to conflicts or disorder within an organization.
- The framework provides a lens to analyze member behavior and party responsiveness in conflict situations.
- **Exit:** Leaving the party through defections, forming new party.
- **Voice:** Expressing dissent from within the party to initiate change.
- **Loyalty:** Remaining committed despite dissatisfaction.

Methodology

A **qualitative case study design** was used to gain in-depth insights into CCM's internal governance dynamics.

- **Data Collection:** 23 Semi-structured interviews with key informants: CCM local leaders, academics, civil society members.

Desk research and analysis of secondary sources (party documents, election data, news reports, academic literature).

- Thematic analysis examined power relations within the party.
- Study Period: Focus on the multiparty era (1995-2020).

Key Research Findings

Study identified conflict resolution mechanisms with different implications on democracy.



Dialogue and Reconciliation used to reintegrate party factions

Mediation and Arbitration utilized for ideological differences including demands for party constitutional provisions.



Elections used at different party levels and provide member participation in resolving candidacy disputes. Often criticised for lack of transparency.

Suspension and Expulsions—An authoritarian tool used against members implicated in dissent.

Impact on Intraparty Democracy

- Thin line between the state and party stifles internal criticism.
- Highly centralized election processes. Often lack transparency, leading to factions and defections.
- A culture of fear and self-censorship among members, suppresses "voice", promotes "loyalty" or silent suffering over open dissent.

CONTACT

