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Articles

Indirect rule redux: the political economy of diamond mining and its relation to the Ebola outbreak in Kono District, Sierra Leone

Le retour de la « règle indirecte » : la politique économique de l'extraction de diamants et sa relation avec l'épidémie d'Ebola dans le district de Kono, au Sierra Leone

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illicit flow of resources out of Sierra Leone. Drawing on field research conducted during

the outbreak and in its aftermath, they show how this 'indirect rule redux' undermines democratic governance and the development of revenue-generation institutions. Finally, they consider the linkages between indirect rule and the Ebola outbreak, vis-à-vis the consequences of the region's intentionally underdeveloped health care infrastructure and the scaffolding of outbreak containment onto the paramount chieftaincy system.

RÉSUMÉ

Cet article explore la relation entre l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2016 et la politique économique de l'extraction de diamants dans le district de Kono, au Sierra Leone. Les auteurs avancent que des entreprises étrangères ont recyclé les stratégies coloniales de la « règle indirecte » afin de faciliter le flux de ressources hors du Sierra Leone. S'appuyant sur de la recherche de terrain conduite pendant l'épidémie et après, il est démontré comment ce retour de la « règle indirecte » sape la gouvernance démocratique et le développement d'institutions qui génèrent du revenu. Enfin, cet article s'intéresse aux liens entre la « règle indirecte » et l'épidémie d'Ebola, vis-à-vis des conséquences de l'infrastructure de soins de santé intentionnellement sous-développée dans la région et les tentatives de confinement de l'épidémie pour le système essentiel de chefferie.

KEYWORDS:

Ebola S

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Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Partners in Health and the recipient of numerous honours, including the Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and, with his PIH colleagues, the Hilton Humanitarian Prize. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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3 To estimate the cost of a fully functional health system, we multiplied the population of Sierra Leone by the recommended minimum government health expenditure of US\$86 per person (McIntyre and Meheus [2014](#)).

Additional information

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