



Oil and the Misspent Riches of Equatorial Guinea

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Suggested Learning Objectives

- Explore how human-environmental interactions enabled the economic success of Equatorial Guinea
- Explain the “Paradox of Plenty” as it relates to Economic Development
- Compare and contrast Equatorial Guinea with other oil-producing regions of the world
- Consider symptoms of corruption with urban and rural land use

Suggested Unit Pairing

- Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes
- Unit 7: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

Discussion Questions

- What is the “Paradox of Plenty”? How did it take place in Equatorial Guinea?
- Why was Equatorial Guinea’s growth not sustainable? Can anything be done to mend it?
 - Why is sustainable development important?
- How did the physical environment of Equatorial Guinea enable this economic success?
- In what ways were some citizens unable to enjoy the success of oil extraction?
- Why is it important to have a diverse economy?
 - Does foreign investment relate to a diverse economy?
- How does Equatorial Guinea’s economy and culture compare to America?

Further Reading

Equatorial Guinea: Geography

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- Maass, P. 2005. A Touch of Crude. Mother Jones. <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2005/01/obiang-equatorial-guinea-oil-riggs/>