

Antecedent Years Economic Outlook of Third World Countries

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Abstract: *This study examines the recent economic performance of five of the world's most economically disadvantaged countries Niger, the Central African Republic, Chad, Burundi, and South Sudan between 2021 and 2023. Drawing on data from the World Bank and supporting literature, it analyses trends in GDP levels, annual growth rates, and trade-to-GDP ratios to assess the broader economic outlook and development patterns within these nations. The findings show that while some countries like Niger and Chad have experienced moderate growth largely driven by natural resources and modest public investment others such as Burundi and South Sudan continue to face severe economic volatility, driven by political instability, food insecurity, and heavy reliance on oil or subsistence agriculture. The Central African Republic shows minimal economic movement, indicating ongoing structural stagnation. Trade-to-GDP ratios remain low across all five countries, pointing to weak integration into global markets. Even South Sudan, with the highest ratio due to oil exports, remains highly vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations and internal conflict. These countries share common constraints, including landlocked geography, underdeveloped infrastructure, limited industrial capacity, and fragile governance systems. Despite global efforts toward development, their economic participation remains marginal, often confined to narrow sectors with limited value addition. This paper emphasizes the need for comprehensive, country-specific development strategies that go beyond short-term aid and address the deeper institutional, structural, and political challenges. Achieving sustainable growth in these nations requires not only economic investment but also improved governance, regional cooperation, and stronger participation in global value chains*

Keywords: Backward countries, Niger, CAR, Chud, Burundi, South Sudan

