

ABSTRACT

**The Dynamics of Dependency and Change
in East African Development:
From the Cocoon to the Butterfly**

Kenwyn Taylor

The economic dependency of the Third World states on the developed world is usually linked to the relationship that has existed between both set of actors in the precolonial and colonial era. The major theoretical arguments supporting this view contends that this dependency is an outgrowth of European imperialism. There are, however, some diluted versions of this argument which suggest that there are visible internal factors which have contributed to the state of economic dependency.

This thesis does not rigidly support or oppose any expressed view. It examines the many arguments and proposes that dependency is a natural phenomenon in man's social existence. While the concept, as it is used today, has a definite link with the growth and spread of capitalism, dependency has its own philosophical base and can be used to trace the socio-economic development of any social existence. This thesis attempts to do this with three East African states.

The analysis uses an analogy of life within a cocoon to highlight the change process in the developmental stages and to identify different levels of dependency. It argues that the East African region began developing within a safe and secure environment gradually shifting from one level of dependency to another until the safety net was ruptured by external intrusion. This intrusion then introduced another level of dependency which changed the pattern and course of the development process and destroyed the indigenous dynamic. The region is today engaged in a struggle to shift to the next level of dependency.