

Review of: "Political Economy and Ecology of International Regional Development: Indonesia Urban and Rural Development Loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Reviewer's Comments

This paper is fairly organized and seems to have relevant interesting contributions to existing literature via examining the empirical application of existing theories. However, a few minor adjustments are needed to improve the manuscript's quality for publication.

1. Abstract

For the abstract, it is more intuitive and easier to understand "reviewed the political history of development aid and its political economy (unequal exchange or plunder)"

ADB (and other acronyms) should be written in full on first usage in the abstract and manuscript content.

2. Introduction

The last line of the introduction section in page 1 where it says "However, these theories are faulty." Should be followed by sentences summarizing why and how these theories are faulty to build that paragraph as opposed to having just 1 line that leaves a lot of ambiguity.

Since Indonesia is the case study or focus, then it should be indicated explicitly in the topic or abstract or introduction.

3. Research Contribution

The author(s) research contribution is clear and nicely outlined but would be better if the author(s) are more specific as to how the understanding of the research paper and theories therein help national development policies such as external borrowings.

Also, does the author(s) research contribution mean that no existing literature has attempted to relate these ODA, FDI, and FCL theories to more recent empirical happenings? Author(s) should clarify what relevant existing studies have focused on and how this manuscript intends to fill specific gaps among current studies. Also, why is the political ecology aspect the main focus, and not other possibly influencing factors? This should be clearly stated in the potential

contribution section of the introduction.

4. Data

What frequency (yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly, daily) of data was used from World Bank, ADB and Indonesia Ministry of Finance?

5. Results

For the empirical testing including the fractional polynomial regression via Stata, it would be more intuitive to see actual regression equations and theoretical model/framework that inform the graphs and observed results. Also, some descriptive statistics would help to better understand the nature of the data.

6. Conclusion

The conclusion section needs to be more elaborate to include a concise summary of the paper's approach as well as more specific and practical ways for Indonesia's government to implement the suggested policy recommendations.

7. General

Justification of the entire text.

Typographical errors such as the last line of the Data section which is better written as "We focused on what was actually disbursed into Indonesia's economy". Thorough proofreading of the manuscript by a professional editor or reliable editing soft wares such as Grammarly, among others would help to eradicate minor grammatical blunders.