

Review of: "The Necropolitics of Drone Bases and Use in the African Context"

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This is a very important topic to analyze the implications of drone (technologies) in the African context. However, there are certain dimensions in terms of research design that the author of this study needs to take into consideration. To begin with, research questions are not clearly posed by the author. Even in the abstract, research questions are missing. Secondly, the theoretical framework section is placed before the literature review, which, in my view, confuses a lay reader who would like to read a bit more on the subject with respect to the major existing works. Another issue with the theoretical section is that it contains references to a variety of literature on necropolitics and related categories. The author needs to comprehensively highlight the core arguments of Mbembe's work along with underscoring its explanatory potential with reference to other such works. Indeed, the author needs to critically review relevant theoretical accounts on necropolitics in terms of reflecting on their limitations. In addition, the theoretical framework is not applied to the empirical data. Indeed, the analysis section is shorter compared to, for example, the literature review section. Hence, these organizational issues need to be addressed as well.

Moreover, the author has employed more than one concept, such as 'aerial colonialism,' along with necropolitics. In my view, one perspective suffices as far as the theoretical foundation/framework is concerned. Besides, the study's empirical thrust seems overstretched as it is empirically infeasible to cover the entire African continent in a limited textual space.

I would argue that this study focuses more on the Sahel (and here the author needs to mention which countries constitute the Sahel) than the entire African continent. In addition, the empirical focus of investigation should pertain to the Western and Arab countries, as the author stated in the early part of the paper, rather than the Asian countries such as Turkey and China.

In a nutshell, the article requires a conceptual, methodological (specify which methods are used), organizational, and empirical overhaul.