



Governance Theories and Socio-Political Realities of the States in Africa: Case of Benin

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author KCN designed the study, carried out the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol, wrote the first draft of the manuscript and managed the documentary research. Author KDS managed the analyzes of the study. Both authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Political guidance, the political system and the state organs are come from the governance theories. Our aim is to investigate on these theoretical frameworks in order to apprehend the laws and norms which frame the governance with regard to the socio-political realities in Africa, especially in Benin. The basic theoretical framework binding performance and governance of the firm, takes back the terms of the problem as posed by [1]: conceive the regulation systems of the leader's behavior allowing preserving the shareholders interests (here the peoples). Qualitatively, the political governance in Benin is significantly influenced by the practices come from the shareholder, partnership and cognitive approaches of the governance. The political system and the organs of the State are influenced by the reforms resulting from the New Public Management. The Socio-political realities in Benin founded on the regionalism negatively impact the political governance.

Keywords: *Governance theories; socio-political realities; state organs; partnership approach.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The year 1989 is symbolized by the fall of communism and popular democracies. As a result of this geopolitical upheaval, the United States of America has become the world's hyper power. This period was marked by the dissemination of their ideals and principles. Indeed, the political vocabulary was enriched with new terminologies which will invade the lexical field of international relations and geopolitics: democracy, liberalism, political pluralism, sandwich course, rule of law and good governance... were among the most fashion, principles which will be widely disseminated and imposed on many states. Also, the extension of these notions, kinds of therapies, will apply to third world countries in general and to Africa in particular, means which would enable them in the short or long term to get out of the dead end of underdevelopment. Today, the most used term for these countries is good governance. It should be recalled that in the aftermath of the independence of African countries, acquired for the most part in the early sixties, certain spirits had placed great hopes in this advent. They saw in this new political transformation the possibility for many to take control of their own development and get out of underdevelopment. Faced with this fundamental question, some analysts were both critical and skeptical. Among others, the most virulent was René Dumont (1962) [2] who, in making a prediction about independence, had been critical of the possibility of true development and, in sharp terms, had concluded that "Africa black "was" badly started ". Discordant voices in reaction to this analysis, rose to react against this perception in their eyes too pessimistic. However, more than half a century later after the first hours of independence, by taking a synoptic look at the socio-political and economic situation in Africa south of the Sahara, the observation seems most alarmist: States with the degree of indebtedness vertiginous and poorly managed, increasing socio-political disparities constantly galloping, brief almost endemic poverty despite many riches.

The debate on governance has intensified sharply since the 1990s and re-emerges regularly during financial crises. The latter took on an unprecedented scale with the major American bankruptcies at the turn of the millennium, in the forefront of which the Enron collapse, which led to a massive destruction of value, both for its shareholders and for its

employees who lost their jobs essential to their retirement savings. But, long before Enron, the financial crises were already at the origin of the debates concerning the incentive and control structures of large listed companies. This is the case with the stock market crash of 1929, which had led to the perception of a number of dysfunctions in the capital system, including management of listed companies that are weakly controlled due to the large dispersion of shareholding. These events and the debate took place on a number of reforms, among them the creation of the American stock market policeman, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC).

It is in this line that, in particular since the 1970s [3], Olivier Williamson's work on the structures of corporate governance is situated, then that of Douglass North [4] which, for the following decade, has embraced public policies in all their amplitude. From this first phase, governance becomes in fact a metaphor for politics, conceived as a system of networks governing the relationships of actors united with the objective of generating profit or better management. But, it should be recognized with this that it clearly indicates a process with the dimension of progressiveness which configures it. It is above all the process of erasure relating to the primacy of politics and the state in favor of a more technical and negotiated approach. It is a question of making politics differently, by associating different actors around rational collective choices.

By socio-political realities [5], we will evoke in this paper, the structuring of the State in Africa to understand the difficulties of setting up a State which would have the monopoly of legitimate public power. In Benin, the colonial period is not looked upon as a sort of parenthesis that independence would be closed. The political and administrative institutions imported by Europeans are not mere facades, behind which the political game continues according to the rules inherited from the past. The leading groups are considered as external contributions and have arranged them according to their projects and their interests, but they are at the same time accepted the standards, and the result is a sui generis reality for which we must invent new categories. It should be noted that this process of appropriation began well before the decade of independence. In fact, it was started from the earliest times of the colonial era, through the experience acquired by the interpreters, clerks,

circle guards, whose action was well described by Hamadou Hampaté BA in " l'Etrange destin de Wangrin" [6]. Its history merges with the development and the rise of the advanced category, which revolve for the most part around colonial power.

At a time when the Western powers (USA, Canada, France, Germany...) are experiencing dizzying development, how can we not be caught in these overwhelming images of an Africa that is looking for its way and the accompanying clichés?

The general objective of our research work is to analyze the results of the socio-political realities of Benin on the implementation of theories of governance and to develop an approach to governance adapted to the socio-political realities of Africa, even from Benin.

To achieve this objective, we have adopted a methodological approach marked by two approaches:

- Semi-structured interviews were carried out face to face with certain political leaders and party leaders from all departments of Benin;
- Access to reports from government audit missions on behalf of development partners, including IMF missions, the World Bank and other international organizations, has proven to be an interesting and interesting opportunity. methodological point of view. The partners for whom these missions have been carried out provide various funding as part of their skills for the development of Benin.

Do the behaviors of a cyclical time, linked to history and tradition stem the establishment of good governance in Africa? The risk for us is to fall into prejudice and make a clean sweep of the abundant analysis and expert reports on this question, works which are all unanimous: Africa south of the Sahara must review its mode of governance of public affairs.

The presentation plan for our paper is structured around the following points:

- Research issues and objectives
- Literature review
- Hypotheses and methodological approach of research
- Results and discussion.

2. PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

2.1 Research Issues

As the question is also pragmatic, Benin, our country of origin, will be a land of exploration of the question. In favor of the minor political crises and especially economic crises which shake the country since 1990, clues are provided to us to approach the question of theories of governance and socio-political realities: identity crisis, exacerbation of antagonisms, governmental instability, in short as many 'ingredients that show how the sometimes trivial social and cultural aspects could constitute elements of pitfalls in the implementation of good governance. Regarding good governance, the notion, although old, was brought back into fashion closer to us by political sociologists in the 1980s. It will be taken up by experts from major international agencies, experts who also borrowed the term and launched fashion in 1989. It was around this period that these specialists prescribed good governance to the clumsy or corrupt leaders of the poor countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Today, the word has become commonplace in everyday language, to become the standard of a paradigm in international relations. This word, it should be pointed out, has several occurrences which range from the management of public affairs to the self-adjustment processes similar to those of the market on the economic level. Good governance also relates to the establishment of the rule of law, that is, what is allowed without undermining individual freedoms. This in fact refers to respect for human rights defined by the constitution of 1789 in France and considered as natural rights. This is about the freedom to do whatever the law allows. Among other corollaries, we have respect for human rights, the right to speak, the right to be different, the right to make mistakes, the right to life, the right to express one's opinions. In third world countries, good governance must also be accompanied by the principle of alternation in power.

What then is the impact of socio-political realities on the application of theories of governance in Africa and especially in Benin? Do socio-political realities undermine the implementation of the principles of good governance in Benin?

2.2 Research Objectives

The general objective of this paper is to analyze the influence of socio-political realities in Benin on the implementation of theories of governance.

This general objective is divided into two specific objectives:

- Analyze the causal links between the theories of governance evoked by the scientific and academic literature; and political governance in Benin
- Identify the influence of socio-political realities on the implementation of theories of governance in Benin.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW: THREE THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO GOVERNANCE AND NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT (NPM)

From a review of the literature, we summarize the different theories of corporate governance while emphasizing the particularities of each. Then, through the study of the political sector, we will highlight the specificities of African states and ultimately the reasons why these state structures represent a relevant field for the study of governance.

3.1 Theories of Governance: From a Principally Centered Approach to Leaders 'Discipline to a Knowledge-Based Approach

The objective of this part is not to revisit the different theories of corporate governance. We hope through a synthetic presentation to draw the substantial elements that can inform our thinking. For Charreaux [7], all of the theories dominating studies and reflections on corporate governance fall within the perspective of efficiency. Research on this topic is generally centered on the study of mechanisms likely to improve the efficiency of the enterprise through the creation and distribution of maximum value.

There is an ever-increasing number of working groups on the issue of state governance (World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, United Nations, OECD, African Union, ECOWAS and others) that ensure the sustainability and development of states. We distinguish, within the theories of governance, the disciplinary current from the cognitive current. The disciplinary stream of governance is generally split into two

theoretical approaches: shareholder theory and partnership theory of governance.

3.1.1 The shareholder theory of governance: securing financial investment

Component the financial approach to governance, shareholder theory focuses on conflicts of interest between shareholders on the one hand and managers on the other. From a conceptual point of view, the shareholder theory of governance is based on the normative branch of agency theory - the current known as "principal-agent" or "shareholders / managers" which is supported by the postulates of the human behavior presented by Jensen and Meckling [8] in "The nature of man" through the REMM model (Resourceful, Evaluative, Maximizing, Model). Thus, the objective of the governance system is to put in place a certain number of mechanisms making it possible to discipline the manager and to reduce his discretionary space in order to secure the financial investment of the shareholders. The creation of maximum value goes exclusively through the discipline of the manager. This theory, inspired by the operation of the Anglo-Saxon managerial firm, has many limits. For Charreaux [7]: "it does not explain the functioning of non-Anglo-Saxon systems", in particular the economies of non-Anglo-Saxon countries where the State and the banks have an important role in financing businesses. In addition, in his opinion, the realism of this theory is called into question by the increasingly marginal role played by shareholders in the financing of companies. Furthermore, taking into account the fact that the shareholders are not the only residual creditors of the company and the unlikely link, described as ambiguous by Charreaux [7], between the disciplinary mechanisms and the creation of shareholder value, the works and reflection on governance have been extended to all of the company's stakeholders.

It is now up to us to analyze how to apply this theory to the realities of our African states, notably Benin. The shareholders in this context represent the people. How to frame the behavior of our political leaders and reduce their discretionary space, to secure the general interest, that of the people. The reality is that, from independence to the present day, African states have always been managed in the interest of the leaders, or of the Western powers with ties of collusion and complicity at the top of the states.

3.1.2 The partnership theory of governance: taking into account the interests of all resource providers

The partnership theory of governance makes it possible to take into account the contribution of all the stakeholders of the company in the process of creation and distribution of value. In this approach, the firm is considered as a team of production factors whose synergies are at the origin of value creation. Value is thus created by convention of the efforts of all stakeholders: it is a partnership value. Unlike the previous approach, shareholders are not the only ones affected by the creation and distribution of value. But, as in the shareholder approach, the creation and above all the distribution of value go mainly through the discipline of the manager. In addition, the conceptual hypotheses underlying this approach are identical to those used in shareholder theory, in particular those linked to the opportunism of leaders. Thus, although it has better explanatory value and a broader vision of the concept of efficiency, the partnership approach does not explore the process of creating value through learning and innovation.

In our context, it is about understanding the governance of African states as a win-win partnership agreement for all parties (the people, the leaders, the development partners).

3.1.3 The cognitive theory of governance: another vision of value creation

This theory rejects the hypothesis of substantial rationality in favor of a so-called procedural rationality. Rationality is no longer assessed according to decisions but according to the processes which govern them. In this theoretical approach to governance, value creation depends primarily on identity and skills which are conceived as a coherent whole (Teece et al, cited by Charreaux, [9]). Likewise, the scheme of creation and appropriation of the value which underlies it differs from that underlying the disciplinary theories. The organization is perceived as a repertoire of knowledge capable of perceiving new opportunities, creating value in a sustainable way. Value is born for (Pralhad, 1994, Lazonick and O'Sullivan, 1998, 2000, cited by Charreaux, [9]) from the ability of management to imagine, perceive and build new productive opportunities. Particular importance is therefore given, within the framework of this approach to governance, to the productive dimension both from the point of view of innovation and of coordination. From a cognitive perspective,

Charreaux [9] defines the governance of organizations as the set of mechanisms for increasing the potential for creating value through learning and innovation.

Each of these theories indicates different modes of value creation. If the first two theories have a relatively static view of value creation, the cognitive approach gives a more dynamic view. These three theories retain a different conception of governance and ultimately of the mechanisms to be put in place. We are trying through our study to determine which of these theoretical approaches best reflects the socio-political realities in terms of governance in Africa and especially in Benin.

3.2 The New Public Management (NPM)

Public administrations in Africa in general and in Benin in particular have suffered for many years from major dysfunctions and deficiencies. They are often considered ineffective because of their organizational nature and the purpose of their institution Charreaux, [10]. It is an excessive, rigid, costly, non-innovative bureaucracy and an overly centralized hierarchy, which leads to deep upheavals, in terms of debt and deficit (Albouy and Obeid, [11]). Improving their performance has therefore become a major issue calling for certain public management reforms grouped under the expression "New Public Management (NPM)". It is a new approach, imported from the private sector, which aims to overcome the shortcomings in terms of performance and returns experienced by the public sector. The NPM era began by mobilizing British and American reforms as a unified phenomenon or movement which was then exported worldwide Hood C. [12], Maesschalck J. [13], Politt C [14], Politt C [15].

The NPM emerged in the 1980s as the sacred instrument for modernizing public administration. It designates the application of partnership and cognitive visions of theories of governance, principles and techniques of public administration reform adopted, initially by several OECD countries Laurence E and Lynn ([16]; Galdemar V. [17]; Diefenbach T. [18]). The contributions of the NPM aim to "democratize" public administration, and in particular introduce performance management systems and quality management techniques Maesschalck [13]. The spirit of the NPM is to bring new concepts such as effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. In other words, develop a culture of performance in

the public sector. The transformations of public administrations can be analyzed. as: the result of the penetration and "success" of a new neo-managerial doctrine. According to Hood [19], it is an "intellectual revolution." The "ways of thinking" and the systems of the administration would be changing through the introduction of new principles, new rules and new instruments.), Louis Althusser, [20].

4. ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH APPROACH

4.1 Research Hypotheses

Referring to our review of the literature, we formulate two (02) hypotheses. The general idea behind our research is to show the influence of socio-political realities on political governance in Benin. The general question of our problem is formulated as follows: What is the influence of socio-political realities on the implementation of theories of governance in Benin?

We therefore formulate the following two hypotheses:

- H1: Political governance in Benin is imbued with the principles of theories of governance;
- H2: Socio-political realities influence political governance in Benin.

4.2 Methodological Research Approach

We have adopted a qualitative approach to this research work, so it is a qualitative study.

Listening and watching: the various techniques used by social science to collect information, interview and observation appear both as the most trivial (by their apparent banality) and the most delicate (by their false simplicity). Unlike quantitative techniques which are common to several disciplines - epidemiology and demography in particular -, qualitative techniques, of which maintenance and observation are the most usually used, appear to be relatively specific to social science to which they largely contribute to confer their status of "sciences soft,s ". Far from being approximate and subjective, these types of investigations call for a concern for precision and objectification which is no less than that manifested in statistical surveys,(Paul M. Kellstedt and Guy D. Whitten, 2018) [21].

The interview and the observation correspond to a generally approach description of social facts:

for those who record what they hear and what they see, it is first of all a question of knowing what are the existence of the people he studies; he will try to pick up on speeches and situations that allow them to access beliefs, representations, practices, institutions that give meaning to a society; the ethnographic monograph - systematic study of a group or a village - in is the illustration. Because it is primarily descriptive, this approach must be both global and differentiated. Overall in the interest taken in all the activities of the society (even if we work on the disease, it is obvious that we cannot do abstraction from religious, political, economic, etc.). And differentiated by the attention paid to the various groups that make up society (it is impossible to to think that men and women, masters and captives, Muslims and Christians, in a same village or same district think and do the same things).

The interview can gather life stories, countries or continents. However, the problem it poses is linked to what it gives the illusion that what is said by the subject is the truth of his existence, whereas it is only the vision that he has of it, or that he wants to give: like any speech, the story of life is only a reconstruction which tends to reveal coherence rather than contradictions and wanderings [21].

4.2.1 Semi-structured interviews: gathering information from political leaders

The semi-structured interviews were carried out face-to-face with certain political leaders and political party's leaders from all departments. We mainly focused our interviews on the leaders because the latter remain at the heart of the questioning on governance and this regardless of the theoretical approach to governance, similarly, during informal interviews, some well-informed people in the field Politics. To do this, we have developed two interview guides, the first for legal political leaders and the second for resource people. Having no empirical study on the issue of state governance in the beninese context and in order to be well understood by our interlocutors, we opted to grasp the issue of state governance through the prism of mechanisms to control or regulate the behavior and actions of political leaders with a view to the efficiency of the structure. To do this, we met ten presidents of political parties, and ten resource persons of national, regional and international renown. These interviews allowed us to identify the main actors as well as all the structures involved in the governance of States, their influence in the life of

States, the mechanisms put in place, the nature of these mechanisms, the meaning and the objectives assigned to these mechanisms in reflecting on the efficiency of State management. These interviews also allowed us to gather the feelings and the positions of political leaders vis-à-vis these mechanisms. Each interview was recorded, fully transcribed and resulted in the creation of a summary table showing the main themes addressed. By confronting this information with the different theoretical frameworks of governance, we determined the elements of variables that could allow us to validate or invalidate our research hypotheses. [21].

4.2.2 Audit missions: an interesting mode of data extraction

Access to the reports of the State audit missions on behalf of development partners, in particular the missions of the IMF, the World Bank and other international organizations, has proved to be an interesting opportunity from a point of view, methodological view. The partners for which these missions have been carried out provide various funding for their skills in the development of States. These missions allowed us to access a certain amount of information, both formal and informal, that no other mode of access to reality could have allowed us. The information gathered through the audit mission reports also allowed us to cross-check with that collected during our interviews. This information allowed us to understand the logic and the stakes guiding the controls of the States and beyond the control of the behavior and the action of the political leaders. They also made it possible to determine the nature of the control mechanisms generally favored by international organizations, to access various reports or documents internal or emanating from other partner organizations of States, to access the minutes of general meetings or of board of directors of state structures.

In order to determine to which theoretical approach to governance the mechanisms identified relate to, we were interested in the first senses of these for our interlocutors. Thus, if the main function of these mechanisms is to reduce the manager's discretion, these mechanisms are considered to be linked to the disciplinary vision of governance. If these mechanisms are rather interested in the search for innovative solutions or creative solutions for the State, these are linked to a cognitive vision of governance, all that in the

perspective of the application of the principles of the New Public Management (NPM).

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Results

5.1.1 Hypothesis 1: Political governance in Benin is imbued with the principles of theories of governance

After an in-depth analysis and cross-checking of the information collected through interviews and the study of audit and expert reports by Technical and Financial Partners (TFP), we note that political governance in Benin, through bias of the control mechanisms put in place borrowed elements of the theories of governance highlighted in our review of the literature.

After cross-checking the data from this table, it should be noted that the governance control mechanisms put in place through Law N ° 90-32 of December 11, 1990 on the Constitution of the Republic of Benin, are all influenced by shareholder approaches, partnership and cognitive of governance theories from the scientific literature. These mechanisms are implemented through the institutions of the Republic of Benin such as:

- The Legislative Power (National Assembly), responsible for controlling the action of the Executive Power (the Government)
- The Judicial Power (The Supreme Court), responsible for applying and respecting the laws of the Republic
- The Constitutional Power (The Constitutional Court) which ensures the day before the strict application of the Constitution of Benin, which represents the Basic Law of the country.

Thus through the Legislative Power, the objective of this governance system is to implement a certain number of control actions allowing to discipline the Government of Benin (Executive Power) and to reduce its discretionary space in order to secure the general interest of the sovereign people. The creation of maximum value, the only way of harmonious economic and social development, passes exclusively through the discipline of the Governors (the President of the Republic and his Ministers), in the management of public affairs.

The Judicial Power essentially aims at rendering justice to ensure the normal functioning of the Beninese society.

Table 1. Comparison Political governance in Benin and principles of theories of governance

Elements	Disciplinary approach to governance	Partnership approach to governance	Cognitive approach to governance	New Public Management (NPM) approach to governance
Political governance in Benin	◊	◊	◊	◊

Source: Developed by ourselves from our field work



: Presence of control mechanisms and theory approach practices

From this information, we can confirm that political governance in Benin is imbued with the principles of theories of governance. The hypothesis N°1 of our research work is thus validated.

5.1.2 Hypothesis 2: Socio-political realities influence political governance in Benin

We present you the information and data collected during our interview work with political leaders and resource persons of Beninese political life (often historians).

- From the first kingdoms to independent Dahomey (present-day Benin)

Before colonization, Dahomey (present-day Benin) was composed of three large sets of kingdoms. In the north dominated the states founded by the Baatombu war dynasties (Wasangari) from the East, who had settled in Nikki, Kouandé, Kandi, Parakou in the north of Benin ... In Middle Dahomey, between the Ouémé river and the border of present-day Nigeria, a chain of small Nago-Yoruba kingdoms (including those of Kétou and Sàbé) unfolded which gradually underwent hegemony from their powerful neighbor of Abomey. Finally in the South were the great monarchies of the Adja-Fon area which were to exercise the most significant influence over the country with the two powerful kingdoms of Danxome (spelled Dahomey by the settlers) and Porto-Novo.

According to oral tradition, at the beginning of the 16th century, the Adja left the town of Tado, located on the shores of the Mono, in Togo (in West Africa), to settle in Savé and Allada, in the South . In the following century, a split among the heirs of the kingdom of Allada led to the formation of the kingdom of Adjache, to the southeast and further north, under the leadership

of Houegbadja (1645-1689), of the kingdom of Dahomey, and this from Abomey, which became the capital of the kingdom.

However, it was Agadja the conqueror (1708-1732), one of the sons of Houegbadja, and his successors, including Guézo (1818-1858), who succeeded in transforming Danxomé into a powerful slave kingdom which prospered thanks to the resources of the international trade. In addition to his war campaigns, Guézo also successfully undertook a modernization of the kingdom: the monarchy was reorganized thanks to the improvement of provincial structures and the establishment of a real tax administration; the army was reinforced by the modernization of the equipment of armament and the institution of a body of permanent soldiers (including a special "brigade" dedicated to women, that of the Amazons).

Finally, Guézo also managed to negotiate the major turning point in the kingdom's political economy in the middle of the 19th century with the exhaustion of the slave trade. Gradually, the export of palm oil replaced that of "ebony" (black slaves), producing profound socio-economic changes in the kingdom. Following him, Glélé (1858-1889) continued this work of political centralization and economic modernization. Colonization profoundly upset this modernization process. After a long war of resistance, King Béhanzin (1889-1894), son of Glélé, was indeed ousted from his throne and Dahomey placed under French protectorate. Relying on the rivalries between Abomey and King Toffa of Porto-Novo, France not without difficulty conquered the rebel kingdom.

In 1851, France signed a trade and friendship treaty with King Guézo. By the treaties of 1868 and 1878, King Glélé ceded the region of Cotonou, located between Ouidah and Porto-Novo, to France. In 1883, King Toffa of Porto-Novo, wishing to protect himself from the

expansionist aims of Dahomey, signed a protectorate treaty with France.

In 1899, Dahomey was integrated into French West Africa (AOF). Its borders were fixed in agreement with Great Britain, established in Nigeria, and Germany, present in Togo. During the interwar period, Dahomey, where thanks to religious missions education was important especially in the South, was one of the main political and intellectual centers of the AOF.

Political activities and even the birth of political parties developed quite early, while a press opposing the colonial system developed. Joined with free France during the Second World War, Dahomey became an autonomous State within the French Community in 1958. The country gained independence on August 1, 1960 and entered the United Nations the following month.

■ **The manifestations of political governance in the face of the socio-political realities of Benin**

The apprehension of the issues and challenges to be faced in terms of governance depends on the one hand on the analysis of the history of Benin and on the other, on the nature of the transformations that the country would like to operate taking into account its vision future. In the French colonial system in Africa, the coastal countries had clear functions. Besides supplying the metropolis with basic agricultural and / or mining products, the outlet for finished products from the latter, there was above all the function of transit to and from the interior countries without access to the coast. Benin's economy was thus structured to fulfill these functions and serve as a transit for landlocked countries like Niger, present-day Burkina Faso and in part Mali. The main task of the political and administrative machine was to ensure the effectiveness of this function. The construction of an integrated economic fabric and an integrated economic space at the national level was absent from the concerns of the colonial structuring mode. This requires another state machine, and is both a decisive issue for the future of the independent country.

The political history as presented makes it possible to schematize the economic development of Benin in three main periods: the first which goes from the proclamation of independence in 1960 to the coup d'etat in 1972.

It is the period of the decolonization crisis or the crisis of independent management. The second goes from 1972 to 1990. It is marked by the establishment of a political regime that wants to be revolutionary, and therefore by the implementation of a development policy in the socialist vision. The third period, known as the Democratic Renewal goes from 1990 to date, marked by a political and economic governance marked by theories of governance, and especially by the current of New Public Management (NPM) through the reform of the Harmonized Framework of Public Finances of WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union).

The socio-political realities of Benin before colonization, from the period of colonization, and from independence to the present day, therefore significantly influenced the political governance currently underway in Benin.

This background of the political history of Benin was present in the minds of the participants of the Conference of the Living Forces of the Nation, who drafted the Constitution of the Republic of Benin of December 11, 1990. This historical framework was fully manifested in through governance mechanisms established by the Constitution and continues to influence governance and political practice currently underway in Benin.

With regard to the elements listed above, hypothesis 2 of our research is validated, socio-political realities therefore influence political governance in Benin.

5.2 Discussion

The results of our work at the level of our first research hypothesis join the work of Aubert N., Gaulejac V, (1991) [22], of Bell R., Edwards D., Wagner H. (1969) [23], of Birnbaum P, (1975) [24] on political power and theories of governance.

The elements of our second hypothesis confirm the work of Birnbaum P., Chazel F. (1978) [25], de Birnbaum P., Barucq C., Bellaiche M., Marié A. (1978) [26], de Bougnoux D. (1995) [27] on the state governance and sociological society.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

To ensure good governance in Africa and in particular in Benin, it would be advisable to adopt, in the light of our socio-political realities, a hybrid and balanced approach to theories of governance, identified through scientific and academic literature.

6.2 Recommendations

Today, more than a century after colonization, the problem of governance and good governance, which generates development, is posed with the same acuteness. Among the solutions to recommend, we recommend:

- Improvement of administrative procedures
- Decentralization of decision-making bodies
- The implementation of institutional reforms
- Restoration of the rule of law or its application
- Public awareness of public affairs
- Probity as well as a high sense of general interest
- Improvement of the equipment and working conditions of state agents
- The definition of provisions for the exercise of certain functions, with the obligation of results
- The establishment of a higher council for the public service
- The development of a code of ethics for public officials
- The establishment of international cooperation to fight corruption
- The finalization of legal, banking and financial cooperation mechanisms for better international research on corruption issues
- Encouraging State agents to take part in regional and interregional seminars for the exchange of information on techniques and laws on the fight against corruption, as well as in research on the fight against pandemics .

As part of the fight against corruption, set up ad hoc committees and anti-corruption units in the various ministerial departments.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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