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## Socio-Political Crisis, Conflicts of Interest and the Reconfiguration of Political Order in Cote d'Ivoire

**Prof Dr Kocra Assoua, Development Policy & African Politics, Institute of African Studies, University of Bayreuth (Germany)**

Once hailed as one of Africa's few stable and successful countries, Côte-d'Ivoire has been in conflict for the past ten years. The political and military crises that started after the attempted coup d'état of 19 September 2002 has led to the loss of countless lives. In order to explain the emergence of this extremely violent inter-community conflict, scholars from different disciplines have focused on different factors, such as ethno-nationalism, xenophobia, and exclusion. However, scholars have argued that these factors are often a guise for the pursuit of essentially economic and political interests by political elites. While it is interesting to analyse how conflicts of interest generated the socio-political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, one must also investigate how they are regulated and managed as well.

This paper analyzes the mechanism, dynamics, structures and strategies that have been set up by opposing factions (e.g., political parties, armed groups, etc.) to regulate and manage conflicts of interest in order to avoid 'state collapse'. Moreover, it explores theoretically and empirically how conflicts of interest have affected the Ivorian political culture, led to the emergence of uncontrolled peripheral actors, and contributed to the reconfiguration of political order. We conclude by arguing that the prolonging of the crisis is likely due to the increasing interest of opposing actors in conflicts rather than to the persistence of conflicts of interest.