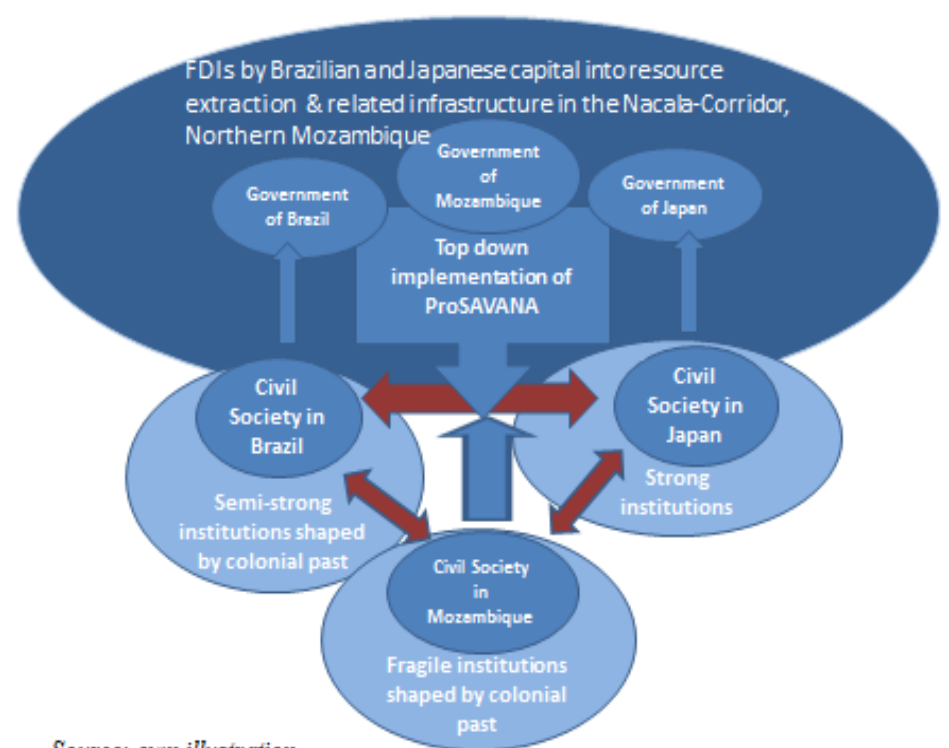


Contentious Politics in the Global South: The case of the transnational mobilization against ProSAVANA in the context of the trilateral cooperation between Mozambique, Brazil and Japan

In the context of the current neoliberal world economy, many countries in the Global South, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, are being integrated into the global economy by following an export oriented resource based approach, while industrialized as well as emerging economies are struggling in a global scramble to secure their (long-term) access to resources and markets. International cooperation efforts, from traditional donors from the North, as well as from nontraditional donors such as the BRICs, are embedded into this logic of gaining access to those resources. On a local scale, those dynamics lead to land conflicts and resistance by small scale peasants and other communities, as they are being affected by land grabbing, food insecurity and the loss of their livelihoods.

In Mozambique, where more than 70% of the population depend on small scale agricultural activity, the planned implementation of ProSAVANA, - a project driven by the governments of Brazil, Japan and Mozambique, that aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector in the Nacala-Corridor in Northern Mozambique - , resulted in the transnational mobilization of social movement and Civil Society Organizations by the three countries involved. In the context of the campaign “Não ao ProSAVANA” (No to ProSAVANA), various separate and collective actions were carried out, that eventually stopped the program in 2015.

Against this background, this project aims at examining how social movements and civil society organizations in Mozambique embedded into the institutional setting of the trilateral cooperation project in the agricultural sector, build up transnational networks and employ their transnational



Source: own illustration

collective power in their struggle for participation, in order to resist against threats of marginalization and dispossession. Within this context, the project focuses on how those actors benefit from the different institutional settings of the three countries involved and how far this serves as an explanation of the actual success of the campaign, considering the different institutional settings from a historical and path-dependent perspective as well as power relations among them. On this basis, the mutual benefit of the actors involved in those transnational networks shall be analyzed.

As a theoretical framework, the research project links concepts from political ecology and social movement theory and aims at filling a research gap concerning social movements in the Global South in the context of the institutional setting of a trilateral South-South-North-Cooperation.

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