Does natural resource wealth really hurt democracy? The answer is nuanced. Resource rents and the political regime. Statistical tests on rents and the regime. The democratic foundations of rentier states. Resource rents and the political regime. Statistical tests on rents and the regime. The democratic Resource curse, also known as the paradox of plenty, refers to the paradox that countries with abundant natural resource wealth often experience institutional weaknesses, which can lead to authoritarian rule. This argument was developed in Thad Dunnings "Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa." The resource curse, also known as the paradox of plenty, refers to the paradox that countries with abundant natural resource wealth often experience institutional weaknesses, which can lead to authoritarian rule. This argument was developed in Thad Dunnings "Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa."