

## **The State in Private Sector Development in Ghana: An Overview of Policy Frameworks Since 1950s**

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The post WWII period has been characterized by changes in Ghana's economic development paradigm. Increasingly, there has been a movement away from state-centered economic development approaches (dominant up to the early 1980s) towards policies that strengthen market forces and to increase competition since the mid-1980s. A crucial aspect of the refocusing (by the developmental state) has been structural reforms that help to grow private enterprise. This paper is envisaged as an overview of private sector development in Ghana from 1951 to the present. The thrust will be to examine the private sector policy frameworks of successive governments with the aim to highlight continuities and changes in the attitudes of governments towards, as well as initiative for private sector development. The approach will be historical. The main question will be "what role have successive governments of different ideological sways played in enabling private sector development in Ghana since 1951?" The main hypothesis is that successive governments, irrespective of their ideological views on wealth creation and distribution, adopted relative degrees of pragmatism towards private sector development.