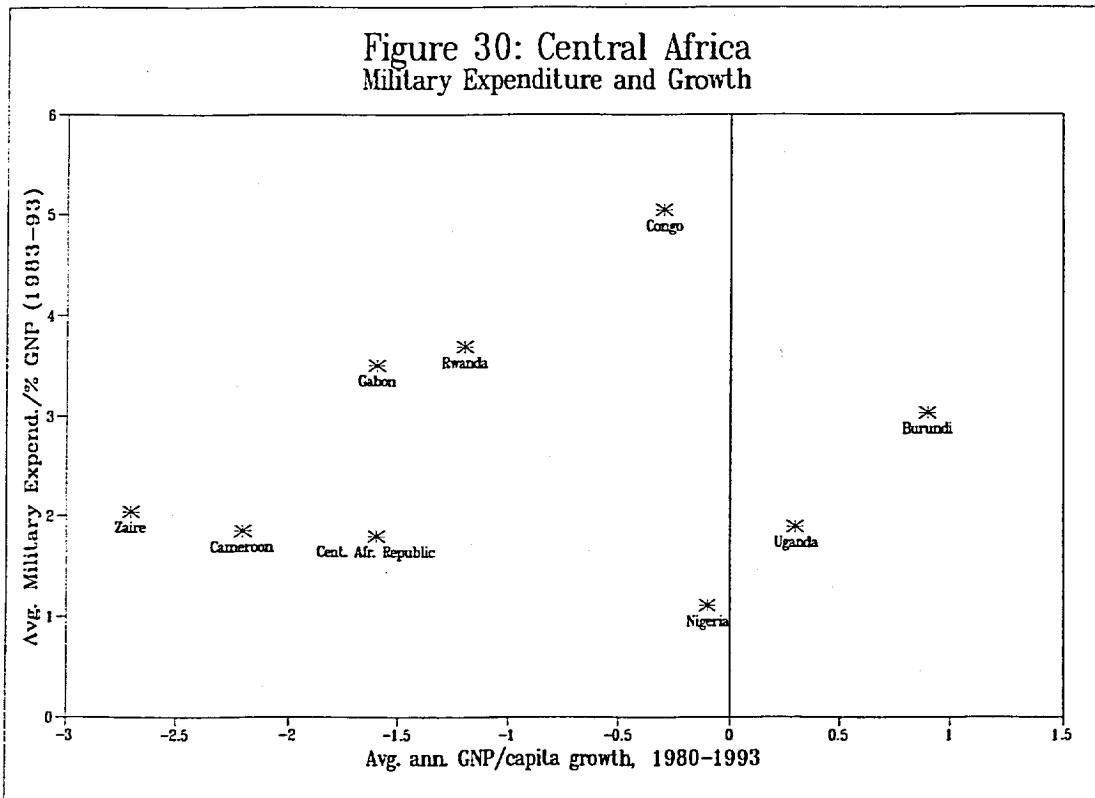


of a visual examination may simply be spurious. In any case, the absence of a clear relationship does not exclude the possibility that there are benefits to be gained from shifting resources away from unproductive spending towards other sectors, especially for states such as Gabon and the Congo, that are not currently



embroiled in violent conflicts. But as noted above, the rampant insecurities in the region make the consequences of reduced military spending unpredictable (and possible even negative).

Finally, Figure 31 illustrates graphically the appalling human rights and civil liberties situation in Central Africa, and attempts to tease out any relationship between it and the military presence in society. None of the nine states surveyed here scores better than "partly free" (3.5), and several are classified as clearly "not free." Zaire, Burundi and Nigeria all are among the worst African states, and the genocide in Rwanda (subsequent to these assessments) would pushed it to the upper end of the scale. Notwithstanding this record, there is once again no particular relationship between civil liberties and the military presence in society, with in fact the states with the most soldiers/thousand (Gabon and Congo) scoring somewhat better than most of the others in the region. This suggests that the incidence of military rule,