

Abstract:

The thesis analyzes the issue of the influence of presence of natural resources on civil wars in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its purpose is to analyze in detail the possible consequences of natural resources on these conflicts in the area in question. The thesis comprises three main parts. The first theoretical part starts with the introduction of the main theoretical concepts (the “theory” of the curse of natural resources and the concept of a rentier state), which presume the existence of a causal relation between the occurrence of natural resources and negative, mainly development-related, consequences in countries that are dependent on them. Subsequently it described selected economic, social, and institutional undesirable phenomena associated with the presence of natural resources. Professional literature, for instance, often mentions the possible connection between primary commodities and civil wars. In this respect the initial part of the thesis is concluded with a presentation of theoretical explanations of the relation between these two variables. It presents expert views of natural resources as a possible cause of civil wars, potential source of finances, and a factor influencing the duration, the way of waging, and other features of civil wars. It also includes an analysis of the influence of natural resources mainly on the quality of institutions and economic performance of countries dependent on raw materials. It points out the existence of a relatively significant consensus in the professional community regarding the importance of primary commodities for civil conflicts. The second, empirical part of the thesis deals with testing of hypotheses that presume the significance of natural resources in relation to certain features of civil wars in Sub-Saharan Africa. Their reviews did not proved a clear correlation between the presence of certain natural resources and more frequent occurrence of civil wars, their longer duration, and a higher number of war-related casualties. The third, practical part of the thesis comprises a case study dealing with the role of natural resources in the civil war in Angola. On the grounds of the performed findings, it was mainly based on their role as a factor that considerably contributed to financing of the conflict and, therefore, to its significant prolongation.