

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis examines the factors influencing the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to African countries. The research builds on current literature on the economic and other penetration of states into Africa. Specifically, the thesis examines the penetration of China, Russia, the United States of America, and European Union member states along with the United Kingdom. The broader aim of the thesis is to provide insight into the motivations of vaccine-providing states. In other words, whether vaccines are being used as a geopolitical tool to gain influence. This is an exploratory-quantitative study using statistical analysis, specifically OLS regressions. The research was carried out using a multivariate regression method, with each model created by repeating a simple regression. In total were created five models with five independent variables. The independent variables are GDP per capita, imports, exports, democracy index score and presence of diplomatic missions. The operationalization produced five dependent variables representing a total of seven types of vaccines. Only the variables for the democratic index score and GDP per capita showed a significant effect on vaccine supply, but they can only explain the variability in vaccine supply for Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, Sinovac and Sinopharm. The other variables we used, have no effect in explaining the supply of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa. At the same time, none of the explanatory variables we used, have explained the distribution of Pfizer-BioNTech and Sputnik V vaccines.