

Abstract

Economic resilience determinants differ greatly across countries and regions. The scientific literature, however, focuses on global rather than regional determinants. Drawing on the ‘recursive nature of economic resilience’ and Hirschman’s ‘Theory of Trade Dependence’, the thesis tests whether Russian economic statecraft events constitute such a regional determinant of economic resilience that has affected the export diversification efforts of post-Soviet countries between 2000 and 2014. It furthermore explores whether these diversification efforts are moderated by the level of state capture and the overall dependence on natural resources which can be observed within those countries. Utilizing fixed effects regression models with 5-year lags, the thesis’ analysis confirms Russian statecraft events as a significant driver of export diversifications leading to substantial diversification efforts in post-Soviet states, two years after being targeted by an economic statecraft event. Additionally, it finds the level of state capture within a country to significantly hamper those export diversification efforts at the product level. In contrast to the ‘resource curse’ literature, however, it cannot confirm that this relationship is also moderated by the level of natural resource dependence a post-Soviet state holds.

Keywords

Economic Resilience, Russian Economic Statecraft, Export Diversification, Post-Soviet Region, Trade Dependence, Natural Resource Dependence, State Capture

Title

Escaping the Bear’s Claw – The Effect of Russian Economic Statecraft on the Economic Resilience Efforts of Post-Soviet States.