

Abstract

The thesis at hand investigates the mirroring of a Putin-constructed strategic narrative in the Zimbabwean media landscape during the Russian war in Ukraine. The Russian influence on the global South could lead to erosion of democratic and peace structures and thus, is crucial in understanding global (in-)security. The African continent, and especially Zimbabwe, remain highly underrepresented in the research regarding international security. With a qualitative content analysis of two-tiered sources – Putin’s publications preceding the war and the Zimbabwean media’s publications – the thesis sheds light on the Russian influence in the global South. Following a constructivist argument, the thesis argues that language plays a central role in influencing security and/or stability. The empirical analysis proves the existence of a narrative not only within Putin’s publications, but also an enriched version of the narrative within the analyzed Zimbabwean media outlets ZBC News and The Sunday Mail. The media use Putin’s narrative as a sort of blueprint and then embed in their own security landscape. Thus, ZBC News and The Sunday Mail underline the alignment of Zimbabwe with the Kremlin and present the Kremlin’s actions not only as favorable, but as crucial. Hereby, the thesis sheds light on the struggle for the *true truth* in global politics.