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**The natural resource curse in post-socialist countries –
empirical analysis**

The aim of the study was to test if natural resource abundance had a negative effect on political and economic changes in post-socialist countries. To address an endogeneity problem of proxies of natural resources, variables indicating the level of oil and gas reserves were used in this research. The within-between, random effects and fixed effects estimators were chosen to control for unobserved heterogeneity. Model diagnostics considered strict exogeneity assumption on explanatory variables, sample selection problem and multicollinearity. Moreover, panel unit root, heteroskedasticity, serial and cross-sectional correlation tests were conducted. The analysis was based on a panel of 28 countries over the period 1991-2015.

The results show that resource abundance was not a decisive obstacle towards a democratic system in countries of Central-Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. At the same time, a negative impact of the high level of oil reserves was indicated when economic institutions were considered. Obtained results are robust to different specifications.