

Mining for peace: Breaking the natural resource-armed conflict links in Guinea

Abstract

This study explores the relationship between natural resources and conflict management in Guinea. Recent literature on theories of contemporary civil wars identifies the presence of abundant natural resources among several key variables as significant triggers of civil war onset. These studies conclude that, since the early 1990s, the presence of these resources contributed to the outbreak of civil wars in a number of countries in West Africa. In Guinea, however, despite being endowed with vast natural resources, the state managed to avoid descending into civil war and or armed conflicts since independence from France in 1958. Why did the presence of abundant natural resources fail to be associated with civil war onset in Guinea? The study identifies ways in which natural resources contributed to political stability in Guinea instead of igniting armed conflict.