

Chinese Health Cooperation and Attaining Political Hegemony in the Global South

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Warfare is commonly used as a tool to gain control and fear of war is used to influence countries to sustain the achieved influence and hegemony. Western powers such as the U.S. have conducted military operations to spread influence to ensure their control and hegemony, especially after the 9/11 attack. However, it led to economic deterioration and the collapse of the monopoly over the world's political hegemony. The core objective of the paper is to ascertain an alternative approach to warfare to attain political hegemony, especially through peaceful means. Based on the neo-realist approach to international relations, Chinese health cooperation during the pandemic was identified as one of the pioneering ways to attain political hegemony via cooperation mechanisms. This research concludes that Chinese health cooperation is state-centric extraverted cooperation, which increased the possibilities of gathering acceptance and influencing countries via establishing binding authority. It recognizes the establishment of soft powers such as Covid-19 medications and Chinese expertise in combating the virus among the participating states to gain political hegemony in the long run. It determines that the acceptance and recognition of the Chinese leadership replaced the western leadership in the global south by competing with the west through peaceful means. The paper proposes the State centric extraverted cooperation as a possible alternative approach to warfare or military means of creating influence and control over the other states.

Keywords: *international cooperation, soft power, state centric extraverted cooperation, Covid-19*