

## **Pandemic Diplomacy**

**Anton Sokolin <sup>1</sup>**

**Rafaela De Negri<sup>2</sup>**

Healthcare and health security have recently become one of the most discussed areas of human life. The ongoing pandemic has provided a new platform for states and pharmaceutical corporations to exercise their diplomatic and PR-skills. The perceived quality and credibility of existing vaccines have become a political tool that has divided the world into several overlapping or isolated areas. We aim to understand how perceptions shaped by the media, pharmaceuticals, and governments - a Political Agenda - contributed to the new ideological division of the world into parts based on their affiliation with Western, Russian, and Chinese vaccines.

Based on that, the paper will scrutinize major international powers' approaches to dealing with the pandemic through the lens of the securitization concept. It will help determine whether the perception of global policy-makers on global public goods and collective action in the healthcare field has shifted to more cooperation or an outright rivalry.

Here, we will also discuss the necessity to build a more just and efficient "Pandemic Diplomacy" that could embrace and direct itself and the global powers towards a plural, equitable, and constructive model capable of dealing with the unique challenges humanity has faced. The IMF<sup>3</sup> "A Proposal to End the COVID-19 Pandemic"<sup>4</sup> includes multiple fronts the international monetary system needs to act on in order to control and finally stop the COVID-

---

<sup>1</sup> Bachelor in International Relations. Master Student - International Security and Development Program, Jagiellonian University

<sup>2</sup> Bachelor in Communication with specialization in Journalism. Master Student - International Security and Development Program, Jagiellonian University

<sup>3</sup> IMF: International Monetary Fund

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2021/05/19/A-Proposal-to-End-the-COVID19-Pandemic-460263>

19 Pandemic. These proposals, all though essential, came in exactly one year, two months and eight days after the WHO<sup>1</sup> declared the new coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. The imperative analysis that has to be done around the “Pandemic Relations” - which we intend to do here - will be followed by an integrational analysis of the possible actions that need to be taken - in a time sensitive period - at the early beginnings of any international health matter.

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization