

Geoeconomics of international security

Overview

In 2013, cyber warfare (and thus economic espionage) was placed at the forefront of US security threats by the US administration, faced with the risk of terrorism. This testifies to the multiplicity of the current stakes of international security, which must no longer be considered solely from the political and military point of view, as they were in the Cold War era. The economy is now at the heart of security issues. National security requires the protection of strategic technologies, the securing of raw material supplies, economic counter-espionage, and so on. On the other hand, many past and contemporary conflicts can be analyzed from an economic point of view: what are the economic determinants of civil wars, of external operations? What are the economic benefits of wars, increases in defence budgets, military research and development? What are the strategies of the large multinational arms companies? Which countries are the largest exporters of weapons and to which destinations? Is it the economic logic that drives the privatization of security, with the proliferation of private military companies and the increasing use of mercenaries in conflict? More than ever, in a global economy where defence budgets have been on the increase (excluding Europe) since the late 1990s, the economy is at the centre of security issues.

Goals

- A better understanding of war and peace issues (notably the economic determinants and the cost of militarism and conflicts)
- A sound knowledge of military production and markets and of the rise of private military firms alongside armies (mercenary activities, outsourcing...)
- Understand the links between economy and security and the current threats to national security, like cyberattacks, disruption of strategic raw materials, economic sanctions but also financial crises, monetary or trade wars...

Requirements

This course requires no specific knowledge in economics nor political science. It is based on concepts and texts that are mainly empirical, with very few statistics. Each theoretical reference will be explained.

All questions will be welcomed during the course. The slides will be available on a website.

Some texts will be given to complement the course and briefly discussed at the beginning of each session. Moreover, simple questions on the course will be asked and corrected during the next session.

Evaluation: Oral exam

Provisional Course Outline

9 two hour sessions

Sessions 1 to 2 : World arms production & trade ; the military-industrial complex and the cost of defence. The specificity of the defence sector within global industry. *Session 3 to 4* : The privatization of security (rise of private military companies, links with financial markets, changes in the conduct of war, rise of new dangers for the civil society)

Sessions 5 to 6 : Economic aspects of external operations (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya...)

Session 7 to 8 : New conflicts linked to natural resources in a context of economic globalization *Sessions 9* : Cyberspace and military technologies, towards new forms of war?

Bibliography

There are few publications providing a truly synthetic view of the various topics addressed in this course. Some documents and articles will be provided during the semester. In the meantime, here is a short reading list :

- Collins A. (2016), Contemporary security studies, Oxford University Press.
 - Braddon Derek L. & Hartley Keith (2010), Handbook on the Economics of Conflict, Elgar Original reference.
 - Garfinkel Michelle R. & Skaperdas Stergios (2007), "Economics of conflict: An Overview", Handbook of Defense Economics, volume 2, pp.649-709.
 - Dunne P., Coulomb F. (2008), Peace, war and international security : economic theories
 - Bannelier K., Christakis T. (2017), Cyber-Attacks – Prevention-Reactions: The Role of States and Private Actors (Les Cahiers de la Revue Défense Nationale 2017).
 - Stiglitz J. & Bilmes L. (2008); "The three trillion dollar war: the true cost of the Iraq conflict", W.W. Norton.
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