

## Interstate Military Competition



### New and novel signals to watch: threats

#### Multiple signals of Artificial Intelligence arms race

- China sets new goal to catch up with US in 3 years, and surpass by 2030. Chinese army units aim to use 'intelligentized' warfare. [Wired](#) [Lawfare](#) [Stratfor](#)
- US Department of Defense plans to establish Artificial Centre focused on long-term AI technology. Spending will double. [Airforce Magazine](#), [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#), [IDC](#)
- Where is Europe's AI response?

#### Increasing indicators of pivot unpredictability

- Iran and Saudi Arabia intensify rivalry over regional dominance e.g. in Yemen. [Munich 2018 Conference](#), [Small Wars Journal](#)
- Saudi Arabia new nuclear centrifuges, modernized weapons and potential usage of PMCs may destabilize the Middle East: [National Defence Magazine](#), [PwC](#), [Mark Leonard's World](#) (podcast), [The Guardian](#).
- What is Europe's strategy to keep pivot heads cool?

#### A new phase in hybrid strategies as geopolitical competition heats up

- Future hybrid military tactics will involve multiple actors. Russia tests leaking security breaches to the public domain [Lawfare blog](#) [Lawfare](#) [Mark Leonard's World](#) (podcast)
- Militarization of authoritarian control over the public online domain (face recognition, individual digital surveillance and quantum revolution) as China sells technology. [Lawfare](#), [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) (1), [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) (2)
- Is Europe prepared to deal with Hybrid 2.0 rather than today's Hybrid pinpricks?

#### Technological advances further spur military competition between great powers

- Russia and China continue to pursue offensive anti-satellite weapons to exploit US defensive weakness in space. [The Diplomat](#) [Politico](#)
- Advances and asymmetric positions between countries on the maintaining human dominance over technology (unmanned, autonomous weapons, hypersonic missiles). [Lawfare](#), [Airforce Magazine](#) [Wired](#) (1) (2) [Bulletin Atomic Scientists](#), [James Acton](#)
- How can Europe contribute to dampen the upward spiral?

## Long term trend: increase in interstate military competition

### Multi-factor assessment

Trend table		Trend
<b>Base rate</b>	<b>Interstate military competition</b>	▲
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Activity*</b>	
	Number of interstate conflict (global)	—
	Number of ongoing interstate conflicts that include a territorial or resource dimension	▲
	Incidence of internationalised intrastate conflict (global)	▲
	<b>Intention</b>	
	Perceptions of interstate military competition by great powers (in strategic documents)	▲
	Negative rhetoric employed by great powers towards each other	▲
	Incidence of military exercises (great powers)	▲
	<b>Capacity</b>	
Defense spending (global, as share of GDP)	▲	
Modernization of military arsenals (great powers)	▲	
Destruction chemical weapon stockpiles (global)	▲	

  

▲ Increase	■ Increase threat
— Stable	■ Decrease threat
▼ Decrease	

\* While not military in nature, hybrid conflict - a fusion of different political, military, economic/financial, social and informational means combined with conventional, irregular and disruptive/criminal methods to achieve political objectives - may in the future become a new reality of military competition. We are in the process of developing a metric to assess hybrid conflict.

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### New and novel signals to watch: the international order

#### New signs on the erosion of negotiated arms control norms and instruments

- Recent CFE breaches go unpunished. The Vienna document under stress due to ZAPAD like exercises, and appointment of John Bolton puts Iran nuclear deal - JCPOA - in jeopardy. [Politico](#), [War on the Rocks](#), [Jon Wolfsthal](#), [Munich Security Report 2018](#)
- How can individual European countries support improved regulation and modernize old norms?

#### Deepening normative disagreement over autonomous weapons

- Great power rift visible as China supports ban on Autonomous Weapons [Lawfare](#)
- Western disagreement as France, Germany and UK and US disagree over the norms guiding autonomous weapons [Politico](#), [Guardian](#), [Lawfare](#)
- How can Europe sponsor normative agreement, CBM and verification?

#### Rules-based system fails to keep up with the pace of technological advancement

- Ukrainian rebel groups plan to use cryptocurrencies to pay for procurement as yet another signal of dragging international regulation, [Wired](#) [Politico](#)
- International law struggling to keep up with law of warfare involving cyber [Lawfare 1](#), [2 MIT](#) and tensions on updating MTCR to include drones [Washington Post](#)
- How can Europe sponsor more awareness and generalized norms for technology?

#### Hybrid activities from another perspective: could they enhance signaling power?

- A recent book argues that hybrid enables countries to better signal intentions, capabilities and intentions [Lawfare](#)
- Can Europe use hybrid tools as a signaling device?

## Long term trend: International order under stress

Multiyear regime analysis on arms control, CBRN and usage of force (interstate military competition)

