

Editorial



Editor

Alvin Karl Bürck is a German-Estonian graduate student of International Political Economy at the London School of Economics (LSE). His research focuses on the political economy of climate change, firm behaviour, and quantitative social science. In addition to editing the EPIS Magazine, he served on the Editorial Board of the Millennium Journal of International Studies, and acted as postgraduate student representative in at LSE's Department of International Relations. He previously gained professional experience in public sector consulting and public affairs in Berlin.



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Carl Johan Steninge-Otto holds an M.A. in International Affairs from the Hertie School, with a focus on international security. His primary interests lie in conflict studies, defence policy, and diplomacy. He is currently serving in the Danish army as part of the Officer Education Programme. Carl aims to contribute to the EPIS Catalogue by bringing together theoretical insight and practical military experience—an essential combination for advancing European defence ambitions.

When strategy meets uncertainty

For decades, globalisation was seen as the backbone of prosperity and stability. But as the last few years have shown, the same lines that connect us can also become fault lines. Supply chains turn strategic. City partnerships turn political. Information flows turn weaponised. What once promised resilience now breeds vulnerability. Our eight issue of EPIS Magazine explores what happens when connectivity and interdependence meet an age of strategic contestation.

Johannes Hollunder opens with an examination of how Japan and South Korea, two of the world's most energy-dependent economies, navigate growing insecurity in their maritime lifelines. Their story is one of exposure, and the search for autonomy, mirroring broader Indo-Pacific realities. Dmytro Sochnyev then revisits the Vietnam War Tet Offensive, uncovering how cognitive bias and institutional complacency can blind even the most powerful states. His piece reminds us that intelligence failures often stem not from ignorance, but from the inability to adapt to changing realities. Vincent Sipeer's contribution brings this closer to home, showing how the geopolitics of de-risking now extends to U.S. cities. His analysis of "subnational diplomacy" reveals that great-power competition no longer unfolds only between states, but also between municipalities, networks, and norms. Lenaïg Deslandes challenges simplistic analogies by dissecting the frequent comparison between Taiwan and Ukraine. Her argument, that not all threats follow the same logic, warns against narratives that substitute clarity with convenience. Jonatan von Moltke's essay on foresight analysis takes the discussion further: how can policymakers act in uncertainty without succumbing to false confidence? His piece questions whether foresight analysis truly provides direction or merely the illusion of control. Finally, Marie Klostermeier contrasts China's Vision 2049 with India's Vision 2047, framing them as two competing models of legitimacy in a multipolar world. Both aspire to shape the future; both are constrained by history.

This issue also features a distinguished set of guest contributions that extend our scope beyond the research of our fellows. Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, former Member of the European Parliament and long-time advocate for Eastern Europe, reflects on the future of EU enlargement and Europe's moral and strategic response to Russia's war on Ukraine. Dr. Hans-Christoph Atzpodien, Managing Director of the Federation of German Security and Defence Industries (BDSV), outlines the industrial and political foundations of a credible European defence readiness. Dr. Matthias Hackler, policy advisor to MEP Engin Eroglu, examines how Chinese scholars interpret Europe's trajectory in an era of shifting global narratives. Finally, Pablo Mathis concludes with an analytical primer on hedging strategies for EPIS Basics, explaining how small states balance autonomy and alignment in an uncertain world.

From supply lines to city halls, from intelligence failures to long-term visions, this issue traces how interdependence has become the defining tension of our century: the constant balancing between openness and protection, cooperation and control, foresight and humility. When strategy meets uncertainty, foresight must replace comfort, humility must temper confidence, and the art of statecraft becomes the management of fragility itself.

Theodor Himmel
Chairman of EPIS

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