

# Editorial

## Theodor Himmel

Theodor Himmel is pursuing an advanced legal education as a Rechtsreferendar at the Regional Court of Baden-Baden. His expertise includes international arbitration and mediation, as evidenced by his Advanced LL.M. from Leiden University, where he focused on the EU and Singapore Mediation Conventions. As Chair of the EPIS Thinktank e.V., he leads international collaborations on foreign affairs and security policy, while also contributing to legal scholarship and policy advisory roles with government affairs.



## Carl Johan Steninge-Otto

Carl 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.



## Sarah Neuhauser

Sarah is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Multilateral Diplomacy, deepening her focus on international cooperation, peacebuilding, and global governance. With a background in business development, intercultural communication, and strategic planning, she brings a multifaceted perspective to the field. She is particularly passionate about respectful dialogue across cultures, thoughtful negotiation, and a leadership culture rooted in empathy and understanding.



## Alvin Karl Bürck

Alvin Karl Bürck is pursuing an M.Sc. in International Political Economy at The London School of Economics and Political Science (UK). His research focuses on international political economy and geoeconomics. Currently, he serves as Postgraduate Student Academic Representative.



## Power, Principles, and the Future Global Order

The post-Cold War rules-based order that persisted for over thirty years has in many ways lost its most ardent backers. An investment in soft power globally, is shifting in favour of hard power, and it is becoming ever clearer that less deference is given to international law. This shift is embodied by a greater focus on the evolution of technological capabilities. This mix of the political, and the technological is the focus of this issue, the implicit question being to what extent power and principles dictate the future global order.

This issue of the EPIS Magazine explores these developments, politically, technologically. Thomas Kurz investigates the nuanced relationship between migration and terrorism, showing that while humanitarian migrants face greater vulnerability to radicalization due to socio-economic hardship, empirical evidence suggests only a minimal impact of migration on terrorist incidents overall. Gidi Brandes dissects the Israel-Hamas War as a strategic deadlock shaped by regional power dynamics, arguing that only by recalibrating the incentives of external actors like Iran, the US, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia can a sustainable ceasefire emerge in an increasingly multipolar Middle East. Belen Bringas explores how the U.S.–China military AI arms race—driven by autonomous weapon systems and strategic automation—is undermining global stability, and argues that without urgent international regulation, algorithmic deterrence could escalate future conflicts beyond human control. Endrit Kasumaj challenges the dominant narrative of an “AI arms race” and reframes global AI rivalry as an “innovation race,” highlighting how cooperation, ethical standards, and strategic restraint—not zero-sum competition—will determine whether AI becomes a force for shared progress or destabilising risk. Martin Indjov warns that funding Europe’s military rearmament by slashing social spending threatens to erode social cohesion, empower populism, and ultimately undermine the very security such policies aim to protect—arguing instead for a holistic strategy that balances defense modernization with strong social investment. Lenín Navas explores Europe’s dangerous dependency on foreign-controlled critical raw materials, arguing that only coordinated investment, strategic partnerships, and supply chain resilience — from mining to manufacturing — can secure Europe’s defense and energy future against geoeconomic threats. Lovely Bernardo looks at the global evolving doctrine of pre-emptive self-defence and eroding the legal foundations of the international order.

We are pleased to feature guest contributions from Ferdinand Wegener, and Erik Lewerenz and Heiko Radde, alongside interviews from famed French diplomat Didier le Bret, and Finnish MEP Mika Aaltola. We once again wish to thank our authors deeply for their expertise and their hard work, in bringing about the articles. Additionally, without the designer Cira Scherenberger, this issue would not have been possible. To all the readers, we also extend our gratitude – your interest in the work of the Magazine and the topics underline the continued engagement in the global community. We hope that this issue will provide you with an insight into the political trends and the technological evolutions, that will shape the future global order – and we hope that you enjoy this issue of the EPIS Magazine.

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