



ARMS, BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Séminaire de spécialité

ENSEIGNANT·E·S :

Samuel Faure

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DESCRIPTION GÉNÉRALE DU COURS :

This seminar aims to analyse the dynamics of the defence industry and the making of armament policies mainly in Europe and through a comparative perspective, at the crossroads of political economy, public policy analysis and the sociology of elites. The study of this rather little-known topic makes it possible to ask classic questions of political science and international relations in order to gain a better understanding of the interdependent relations between states and companies in the 21st century.

How is the defence industry structured: still dominated by the United States and Russia or should China be taken into account? In Europe, do companies matter and are they national or European champions? Who governs the defence industry - democratically elected political actors or the lobbies that form part of what is called the 'military-industrial complex'? Are France, Germany and the UK's decision-making shaped by the same political economy? What are the brakes and drivers of European co-operation to build a 'strategic autonomy'? What do we think of military technological innovations like drones or AI: new (economic) opportunities, new (strategic) risks? How does the state regulate the arms trade and why do some states regulate more than others?

OBJECTIFS VISÉS ET COMPÉTENCES ACQUISES AVEC CET ENSEIGNEMENT :

This seminar has a twofold objective:

- i) On the one hand, to share data and analyses on a sector of industry and public policy that is little known despite the major economic, political, military and democratic stakes involved. This seminar allows students to obtain solid knowledge on the field of armaments in the 21st century from a social science perspective;
- ii) On the other hand, the study of defence capitalism in the 21st century is conceived as a laboratory to reflect on global issues such as the internationalisation of companies and their supply chain, the interventionist or liberal policies of States to regulate this industrial sector, the governance of this policy or the strategic, commercial and ethical issues related to the development of new military technologies.

Ultimately, the goal is to obtain a more concrete vision of (a part of) world politics in the perspective of a first long professional experience (internship): knowledge is an asset to develop a professional practice.

To achieve these objectives, the approach of this seminar is based on three pillars:

- i) Preparing each session by reading social science articles and expert papers (think tank studies or parliamentary reports);
- ii) Participating - even though I know that it is not an easy task to do it online and in English - in each session which represents as many opportunities to speak 'in public' and to defend an argument during the debates;
- iii) Interacting with practitioners from the world of defence and armaments to strengthen your practical know-how.

Année : 2021-2022

Année du diplôme : 4

Cycle ou semestre : 2

ECTS : 5

Nombre d'heures de référence enseignant : 24

Modalité pédagogique principale : Présentiel Distanciel

Horaires du cours :

mercredi de 09h00 - 12h00

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