



Contribution ID: 64

Type: **Paper Abstract (Closed Panels)**

Military Assistance Within the Framework of the Defence of the Liberal International Order: How Does Military Assistance to Ukraine Fit into US Grand Strategy?

Thursday, 29 June 2023 12:00 (20 minutes)

The United States has maintained a grand strategy of liberal hegemony since the end of the Cold War. On this matter, such a strategy would consist of maintaining and defending what G. John Ikenberry has called the liberal international order, which was established and promoted in the first place because it advanced US interests around the world. However, the emergence of a series of revisionist powers in recent decades has called into question the future of this order. Indeed, these revisionist ambitions were best portrayed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. On this point, the threat that this growing revisionism represents for the survival of the rules-based order has been recognized in the National Security Strategy published in October 2022 by the Biden-Harris Administration, where it is recognized that the greatest challenge is posed by autocracies with revisionist ambitions, which by the way would represent a slight change on the Administration's approach to competition. Thus, faced with the Russian aggression, the United States has decided to contribute together with its European allies to reinforce the Ukrainian defense, framing such military assistance in a defense of the liberal international order amid an acknowledged context of competition between the great powers. Nevertheless, how does military assistance to Ukraine fit into the US grand strategy and the strategic competition between great powers?

Are you a PhD student or early-career researcher?

Yes

What discipline or branch of humanities or social sciences do you identify yourself with?

International Relations

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No, I am submitting a Closed Panel abstract

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Session Classification: Closed Panels

Track Classification: Closed Panels: Defence Cooperation and Military Assistance