

The goal of the project is an attempt to evaluate the importance of three economic areas in order to establish supremacy in international relations. The areas include the energy sector, currency internationalization and military technologies that can potentially become an instrument of gaining the geopolitical upper hand by the biggest superpowers. The research project reviews these three economic policies of selected countries (the US, Germany, China and Russia) and of the European Union (EU). The project aims to explore in what ways and under what conditions the said policies can contribute to the growth of geopolitical power of the country (or regional organisation) on the international arena.

The main research hypothesis

Political factors are crucial in order to achieve strategic advantage over competitors in the given economic sector, and also in order to enable the use of the said advantage for geopolitical purposes. The paramount question is whether the economic policy is subordinated to the geopolitical strategy goals and whether it creates systemic solutions (on the part of the economic regime) that provide asymmetric economic and political benefits. In addition, the structure and orientation of interests of the elites (political, bureaucratic and economic), the specifics of management and the manner of deployment of political ideology also remain important considerations.

The research project will employ comparative methodology. We will endeavour to compare situation across different economy sectors and between regional and global superpowers. In each case study we will endeavour to answer the same set of research questions and verify the same hypotheses. Our main question is how will the combination of the four factors (systemic conditions, the role of particular interest groups, managing institutions and ideas) influence the effectiveness of geoeconomic action.

The research methods in each case study will include analysis of the extant literature on the subject, a study of selected primary sources, and in-depth interviews with public figures. The research conclusions and theoretical summary will verify geoeconomic assumptions that were the result of previous research, and offer necessary emendations and addenda.

Studies on geo-economics as a new area of interdisciplinary research in the social sciences are very promising, both in terms of cognitive, theoretical and utilitarian aspects in shaping public policy. To geo-economic strategies refers more and more countries especially those whose geopolitical importance is growing, for example: Germany in Europe, South Korea, China and Japan in Asia.

The scientific significance of the project (and its added value) lies primarily in the area of theory development in social sciences. In our research we employ interdisciplinary methodology and blend methodological perspectives coming from the sphere of international studies, European studies, sociology and economics. We endeavour to find common ground of these perspectives and to explain the reality using the perspective of geoeconomics.