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Abstract



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### **The geopolitical challenges of the emergence of Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) and artificial intelligence (AI)**

GEOINT is based on the fusion of data related to cartography, spatial imagery (satellites), synthesis of information from multiple sources, real-time geolocation, and geopolitical analysis. Location intelligence with the use of AI technology is improving the role of geospatial intelligence. The complexity of new conflicts and geopolitical configurations leads to the need to collect more data (data with a location intelligence component) and develop more intelligence capabilities. Location intelligence provides the key for analysing situations better than real-time spatial analytics.

GEOINT provides a decisive advantage to military, actors in geostrategy, policymakers in spatial planning, private intelligence professionals.

GEOINT was initially used for military operations and security challenges, but has also expanded to include civilian crisis management. For example, military engagements in different theaters of operation, securing the national territory in the face of geopolitical and geostrategic upheavals, terrorist threats, management of natural disasters, mapping of infections and viruses.

With an increasing competition between military powers for information superiority, the mastering of GEOINT and AI is becoming a geopolitical challenge. The GEOINT is at the heart of the New Space (development of new satellite constellations), of the Geospatial Dominance concept (cartography and geolocalization) as well as of the new Information Dominance related to Big Data and artificial intelligence.

Differential access to technologies and information between States in the area of Geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) and artificial intelligence (AI), is creating a new global geopolitical hierarchy and can destabilize world stability. Applying AI technology to spatial analytics creates more GEOINT capability, predictive analysis-space/time scenarios, detection and reporting of foreign threats, warning scenarios and geostrategic superiority during a conflict.

IA powered collection of GEOINT data will give to a State a decisive advantage to master territory and control populations. A State can also lose its sovereignty if a foreign state is in possession of these data and IA powered GEOINT systems on its own territory.

However, these new technologies could also be used to revitalize the global partnership and achieve sustainable development by enhancing North-South, South-South and regional international cooperation both for civilians use like natural disasters and pandemics, but also to improve geopolitical stability against terrorism or international destabilizations.

**Brief Bio :**

Pierre-Emmanuel THOMANN is a French researcher, lecturer and expert in geopolitics. He holds a doctorate from the French Institute of Geopolitics (IFG-Paris VIII University, France, 2014). He teaches geopolitics at University Lyon III Jean Moulin and ISSEP, in Lyon, France. He is also the founder and president of an international association (EUROCONTINENT- [www.eurocontinent.eu](http://www.eurocontinent.eu)) based in Brussels, Belgium, which seeks to promote geopolitical analysis and foster common interest identification between nations and states at pan-European and EU level with a focus on Franco-German relations, EU-Russia relations, as well as, Euro-Atlantic, Euro-Mediterranean and Eurasian (including Central Asia) spaces. He is also specialized in geopolitical mapping and the geopolitical aspects of digitalization and artificial intelligence issues. He regularly contributes to international conferences on international affairs, in France (French universities and French think tanks), in Russia (Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Lomonosov University, RANEPa, HSE), in Uzbekistan (conferences organized by Uzbek government), Italy (Limes festival of geopolitics), OSCE, UNESCO and UN.

He has published academic and policy-oriented articles in Palgrave, Hérodote (IFG, Paris 8 University, France), Revue politique et Parlementaire (Paris-France), Diplomatic world (Brussels-Belgium), Revue Défense Nationale (French National Defence review, Paris-France), Russian Diplomatic Academy (Moscow-Russia), Lomonosov University (Moscow-Russia), Higher school of Economics (HSE-Moscow-Russia), RIAC (Moscow-Russia), Limes (Italian magazine for geopolitics-Rome-Italy). His main book focuses on Franco-German relations and the European project (« Le couple franco-allemand et le projet européen : représentations géopolitiques, unité et rivalités », 658 p, L'Harmattan, 2015). He has co-written the report: Recommendations for a White Book on European Union Security (strategic unit of the think tank IERI-Brussels-Belgium), document presented to the "Under Commission on Security and defense" the 19 June 2013 in the European Parliament.