ATLAS PROTOCOL / STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE

GEO 06 / 04
Regional Power Dynamics

How do regional security dilemmas connect to wider global systems?

22 OCTOBER 2026 | EDITION 1.0 | ANALYTICAL DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Executive strategic assessment

Regional politics arise from local histories, domestic legitimacy, territorial claims and resource constraints. Global rivalries can amplify these dynamics but do not wholly explain them.

Atlas position: this dossier is an independent analytic framework, not an operational mandate or a statement issued by the United Nations or any government.

Analytical architecture

Europe and its neighbourhood

Examine deterrence, security guarantees, energy reconfiguration, economic resilience and the relationship between national choices and European institutions.

Middle East and Gulf

Track security competition, human security, maritime corridors, energy infrastructure, mediation opportunities and the agency of regional states.

Africa

Avoid a single continental narrative. Compare subregional institutions, demographic and infrastructure changes, debt exposure, resource relationships and African diplomatic agency.

Indo-Pacific

Evaluate maritime access, technology supply chains, territorial disputes, alliance signalling and the positions of Southeast Asian countries.

Americas

Assess North American industrial integration, political change, Latin American autonomy, migration, finance and cross-regional cooperation.

Polar and transregional zones

Examine Arctic governance, access routes and climate-linked infrastructure; distinguish physical geography from sovereign entitlements.

Cross-regional spillovers

Map pathways linking conflict, trade diversion, food affordability, migration pressure and financial conditions.

Observed reality / strategic interpretation / forward outlook

Observed reality

Use documented primary sources and dated data; an official statement establishes that a claim was made, not that the claim is true.

Strategic interpretation

State assumptions, alternative explanations and actor incentives; distinguish competing narratives and corroborated observations.

Forward outlook

Use conditional pathways and clear signposts, not deterministic forecasts or unsupported numerical probabilities.

Geopolitical Actor Matrix — common standard

DIMENSION	ASSESSMENT RULE
Strategic objectives	Identify declared priorities and inferred red lines separately.
Capabilities	Compare economic, military, financial, technological and institutional leverage.
Dependencies	Map imports, security guarantees, trade routes, compute, energy and critical inputs.
Alliances	Distinguish treaty obligations, partnerships, issue coalitions and tactical alignment.
Constraints	Test domestic politics, fiscal exposure, legitimacy, law and time horizons.
Escalation behaviour	Record signals, deployments, thresholds and crisis communications.
Cooperation potential	Identify verifiable shared interests and reciprocal concessions.
Strategic outlook	Present assumptions, alternatives, indicators and confidence.

Escalation and opportunity pathways

- A local dispute creates a maritime or energy shock.
- Regional organizations disagree over intervention mandates.
- Cross-regional mediation prevents a dispute from hardening.

Monitoring indicators

- Regional institution statements
- Displacement and humanitarian access
- Shipping and energy disruption

- Border incidents and military exercises
- Investment corridor changes

Scenario framework — conditional, not predictive

Regionalization of conflict

Local crises couple into broader economic and security rivalry.

Layered accommodation

Rivals establish limited region-specific restraint.

Cooperative corridors

Trade and humanitarian arrangements create practical interdependence.

Decision questions

- What has changed since the previous assessment, with what verified evidence?
- Which actor has gained or lost bargaining alternatives, and why?
- Which dependency, alliance or institutional constraint is most decisive?
- What evidence would contradict the leading interpretation?
- Which de-escalatory or cooperative pathway remains available?

Connections within Atlas Intelligence Core

STR 05 provides analysis of strategic systems (financial, maritime, defence, AI and space); GEO 06 evaluates actors, interests and relational power; OBS 07 tracks signals and evidence. PLN 01, SPE 02, CIV 03 and HUM 04 add physical, species, institutional and human-decision perspectives.

Selected references and source discipline

WEF Global Risks Report 2026 — https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2026

SIPRI Trends in World Military Expenditure 2025 (April 2026) — https://www.sipri.org/publications/2026/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2025

IMF World Economic Outlook October 2026 — https://www.imf.org/en/publications/weo/issues/2026/10/13/world-economic-outlook-october-2026

United Nations Charter — https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text

Method note: cited figures require matching vintage, definitions and verification before web publication. WEF 2026 risk survey (18% cite geoeconomic confrontation as highest potential crisis trigger; 68% anticipate a multipolar/fragmented order) is perception data. SIPRI reports military spending of US$2,887 billion in 2025. IMF October 2026 WEO forecasts 3.1% global growth in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027; these are projections, not confirmed outcomes.

Editorial control: Draft v1.0 — scholarly and institutional fact-check, owner review and publication approval required; no claimed live monitoring, applied scores or state endorsements.

DEEPENED ANALYTICAL ANNEX · v1.1

22 OCTOBER 2026 | GEO 06 | ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS FOR OWNER REVIEW

Method: grounded background is distinguished from Atlas analysis and conditional outlook. Profile and monitoring items below are assessment frameworks, not claims that particular future events have occurred. All proposed triggers are editorial watchlist thresholds, not empirically calibrated forecasts.

Regional case files

Europe / Ukraine and European security

Relevant actors: Ukraine, neighbouring European states, EU institutions, NATO, United States and Russia.

Systems and dependencies: Battlefield and negotiating positions; defence procurement; energy infrastructure; external assurances.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: strikes and signalling widen; cooperation: verified humanitarian exchanges or monitored arrangements.

Testable monitoring: Track verified ceasefire provisions, strike geography, diplomatic formats and force postures; do not infer peace from a single meeting.

Middle East / Gulf security and humanitarian access

Relevant actors: Gulf states, Iran, Israel, Palestinian representatives, neighbouring states, external mediators.

Systems and dependencies: Civilian access, maritime security, energy infrastructure and diplomatic channels.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: correlated shipping and energy disruptions; cooperation: monitored relief corridors and regional understandings.

Testable monitoring: Track independently confirmed aid access, shipping incidents, mediation milestones and civilian service recovery.

Indo-Pacific / South China Sea and Taiwan Strait

Relevant actors: China, Taiwan, ASEAN coastal states, Japan, United States and regional partners.

Systems and dependencies: Maritime and air encounters, trade dependence, exercises, confidence-building.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: unsafe encounters or coercive restrictions; cooperation: operating protocols and crisis communication.

Testable monitoring: Track incident reporting, exercise scope, official dialogues and commercial rerouting; distinguish claims from verified changes.

Africa / Sahel and Red Sea linkages

Relevant actors: Sahel governments, African regional institutions, neighbouring coastal states, external partners.

Systems and dependencies: Security, displacement, border commerce, governance and food access.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: regional contagion and interrupted transport; cooperation: humanitarian access and negotiated regional corridors.

Testable monitoring: Track regional mediation, civilian displacement with UN source dates, border closures and essential-service continuity.

Americas / supply chains and strategic autonomy

Relevant actors: United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and other Latin American partners.

Systems and dependencies: North American integration, critical minerals, migration, financial conditions.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: trade coercion and reciprocal measures; cooperation: targeted supply agreements.

Testable monitoring: Track tariff enactment not rhetoric, trade composition, investment approvals and institutionally verified bilateral arrangements.

Arctic / access, environmental monitoring and security signalling

Relevant actors: Arctic coastal states, indigenous organizations, scientific bodies and commercial operators.

Systems and dependencies: Seasonal navigation, search and rescue, early-warning integrity and environmental change.

Alternative pathways: Escalation: military misinterpretation; cooperation: scientific data exchange and SAR coordination.

Testable monitoring: Track observed shipping seasons, maritime notices, SAR exercises and formal state-level diplomatic contacts; Arctic Council cannot enforce military security.

Cross-regional causal pathways

TRANSMISSION	ANALYTICAL QUESTION	DISCONFIRMING EVIDENCE
Energy → inflation → fiscal pressure	Is a regional supply disruption measurable beyond the originating region?	Prices normalize or remain locally confined despite sustained disruption.
Shipping → food and industrial inputs	Do route diversions coincide with documented delivery and insurance changes?	Alternative routes absorb the shock without material delivery delay.
Information → policy response	Does an unverified incident drive official response before independent checks?	Authorities document verification and restraint before acting.
Migration → regional diplomacy	Are displacement changes affecting border policy or formal coordination?	No policy transmission after accounting for local conditions.

Case evidence template

Each case update must identify one primary official source, one independent corroborator where feasible, a counter-position from a relevant regional actor, a civilian-impact measure, and a next-review date. No automatic transfer of causation from one region to another.

Source check: consult dated SIPRI April 2026, IMF October 2026, UN Charter and relevant regional authorities; bibliography and URL anchors retained in the main dossier.

Editorial note: v1.1 expands only dossiers 02, 04 and 08. Existing v1.0 chapters remain unchanged. Actor descriptions are analytical lenses, not official statements by those actors. Review immediately before publication for time-sensitive incidents and policy changes.