ATLAS PROTOCOL / STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE

GEO 06 / 05
Geoeconomic Competition

When do trade, finance and technology become instruments of geopolitical coercion?

22 OCTOBER 2026 | EDITION 1.0 | ANALYTICAL DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Executive strategic assessment

Geoeconomics concerns the use and vulnerability of economic connections in pursuit of strategic objectives. Interdependence creates both leverage and incentives to preserve stability.

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

Trade and industrial policy

Compare tariffs, export restrictions, subsidies and local-content requirements; identify stated rationale and observed effects.

Finance and monetary links

Map sovereign funding exposure, payments, reserve access, sanctions channels and cross-border liquidity. Connect to GFSM in STR 05 without duplicating its market architecture.

Technology dependencies

Track chips, compute, cloud infrastructure, network equipment and standards as sources of strategic bargaining power.

Energy and resources

Differentiate extraction geography from processing concentration, transportation chokepoints, storage and substitution capacity.

Second-order humanitarian effects

Trace input cost inflation, shortages, reduced fiscal space and disproportionate pressure on vulnerable populations.

Mutual vulnerability

Model retaliation, leakage, alternative routes and impacts on the initiating actor; coercive measures may harm both parties.

Comparative assessment

Use explicit scenario baselines and specify whether claims are measured, inferred or contested.

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

- Export restrictions create third-country diversification.
- Financial stress converts into diplomatic concessions or backlash.
- A critical-input shortage interrupts security or infrastructure delivery.

Monitoring indicators

- Trade concentration and rerouting
- Financial spreads and funding access
- Export-control announcements

- Processing and refining concentration
- Critical inventory buffers

Scenario framework — conditional, not predictive

Fragmented networks

Parallel supply chains deepen cost and vulnerability.

Managed competition

Selective restrictions coexist with minimum financial and trading rules.

Selective reintegration

Reciprocal exemptions and safeguards rebuild high-value links.

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.

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