

Security Policies in an Increasingly Dangerous World

A European Perspective

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a cityscape. In the foreground, a large pile of white sandbags is stacked, with some debris on top. A black metal fence is visible behind the sandbags. In the background, a cityscape is visible under a dark sky, featuring a prominent building with a golden dome. The overall mood is somber and suggests a state of emergency or conflict.

Is Europe More Secure?

1. Europe is more (in)secure – Compared to when?

Europe experienced the conflicts of the 21st century from a certain distance.

“Europe has never been so prosperous, so secure nor so free. The violence of the first half of the 20th Century has given way to a period of peace and stability unprecedented in European history”. (2003)

European Security Strategy: A Secure Europe in a Better World (2003)



1. Europe is more (in)secure – Compared to when?

Europe is now an arena of geopolitical competition.

“Europe is even more in danger than we thought [...] History is accelerating once again. We live in a world shaped by raw power politics, where everything is weaponised and where we face a fierce battle of narratives”. (2022)

A Strategic Compass for Security and Defence (2022)





2. An International Order in Transition

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What Is the world like?



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What Is the world like?

- More fragmented and unstable.
- Less peaceful and more heavily armed.
- Marked by great-power competition.
- Imbalanced.
- Turbulent, but not chaotic.



2. An International Order in Transition

From a rules-based international order to a world of power politics



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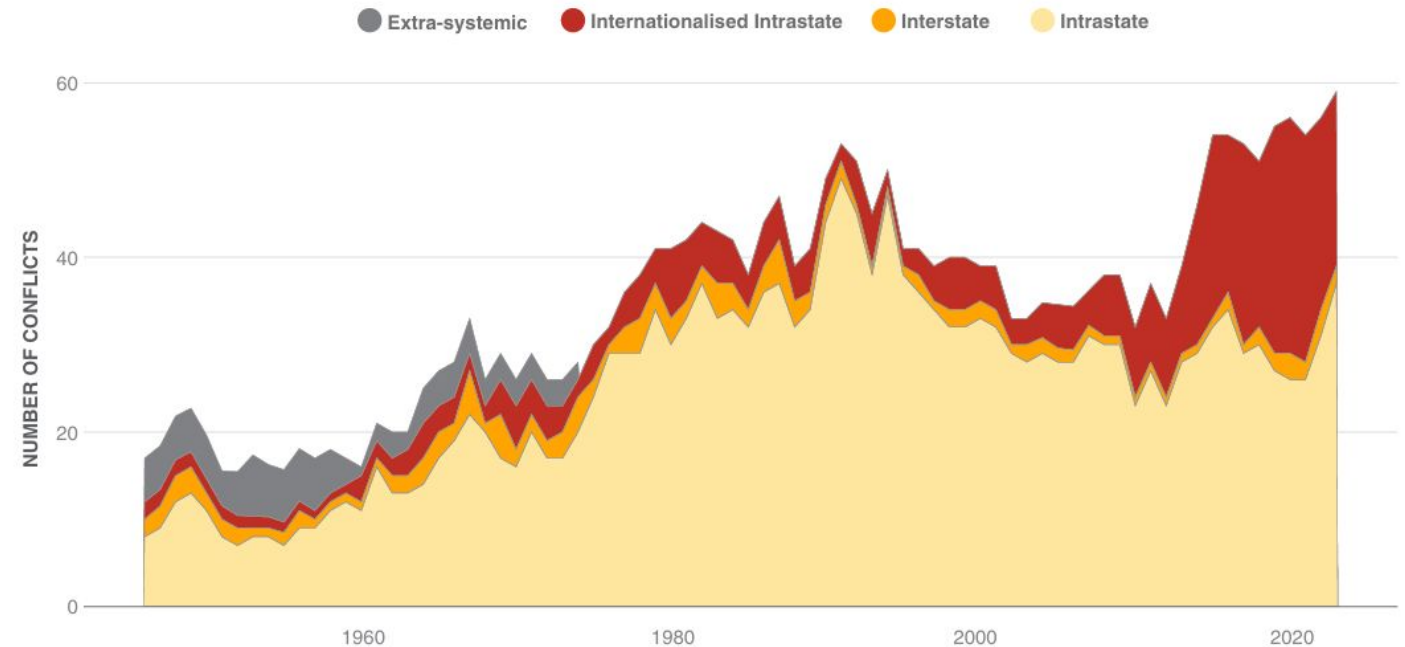
What is the world like?

More than 60 conflicts between States

The highest number since the Second World War

Number of state-based conflicts by type, 1946–2023

The total number of state-based conflicts is now higher than at any point since WWII.



Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset

2. An International Order in Transition

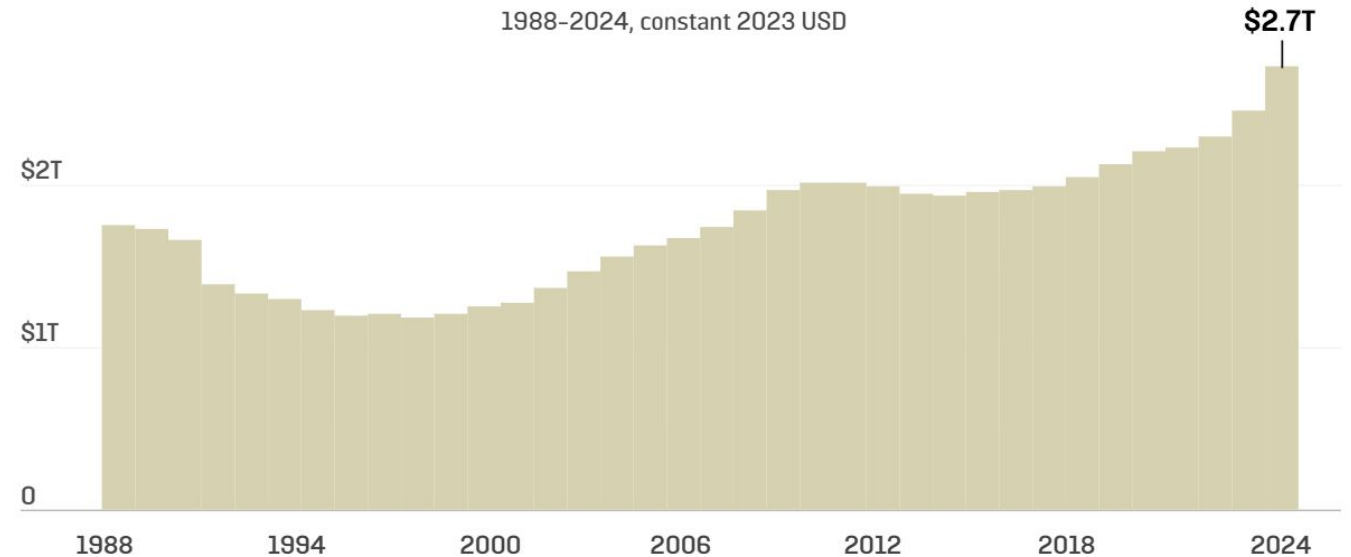
What is the world like?

Global Military Expenditure

Has increased by 37% over the past decade

3 | Military Spending Climbed

1988-2024, constant 2023 USD



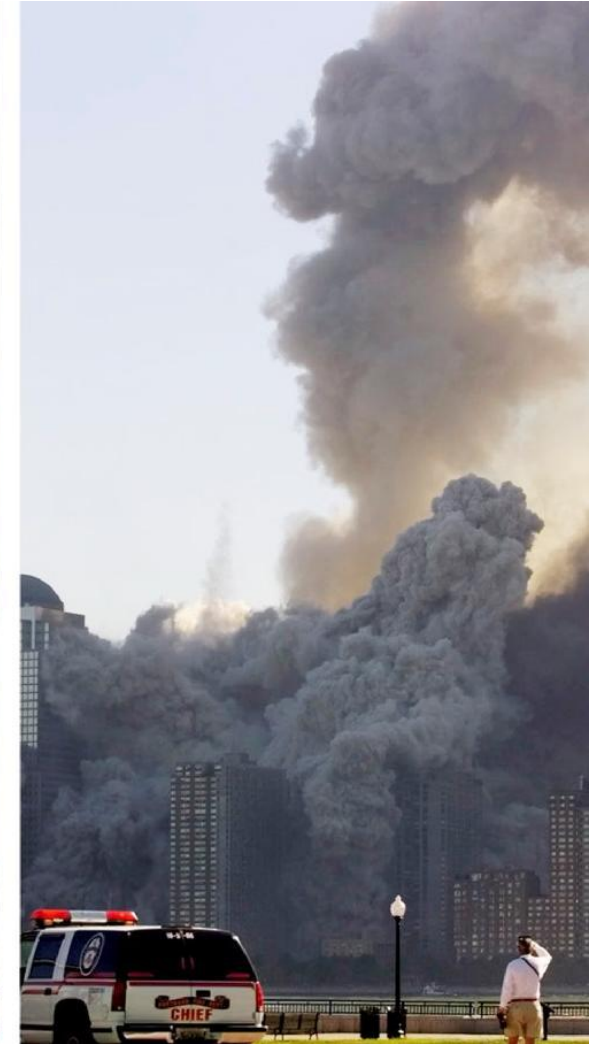


3. What Is Security?

A Multidimensional Concept

3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Internal security



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Military security and defence: Ukraine

Russia occupies only around **20%** of Ukrainian territory.

Russian advances: an average of 70 metres per day – comparable to the Battle of the Somme (1916).



Source: UK Ministry of Defense; and CSIS estimates.

3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Military security and defence: Ukraine

€215.2 billion in total support

- **€77 billion** in military assistance.
- **€110.4 billion** in financial and humanitarian support.

Ukraine's GDP: €197 billion (2026).

Total EU support to Ukraine and Ukrainians

€215.2 billion in support, including:



- Support made available by Team Europe
- Military assistance measures
- Support for Ukrainians in the EU
- Ukraine Support Loan
- Proceeds of Russian immobilised assets

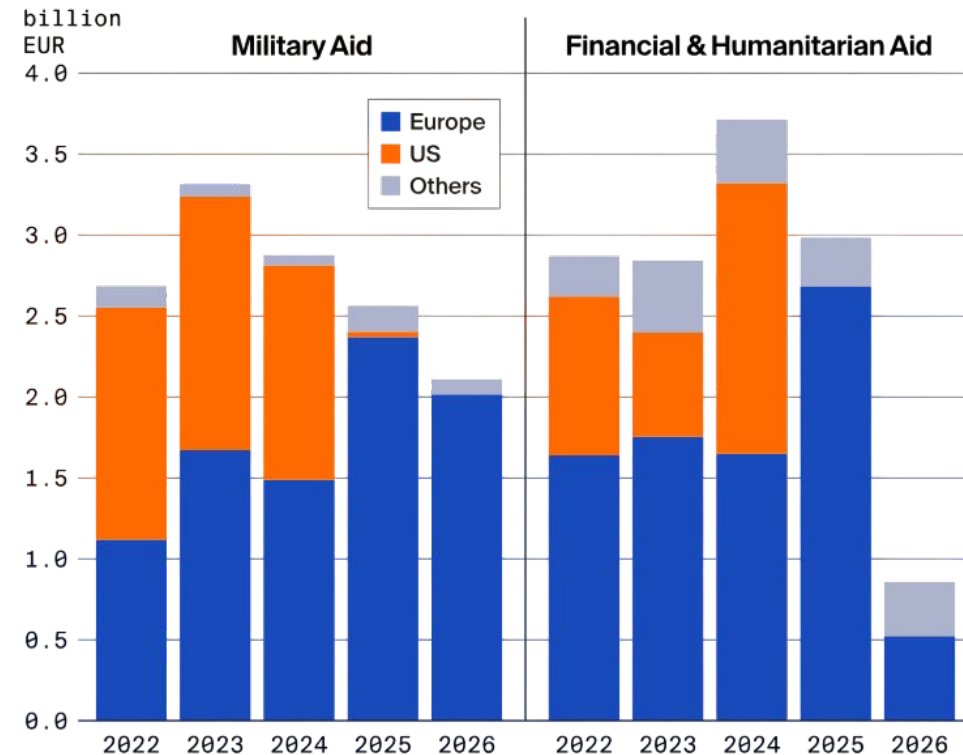
3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Military security and defence: Ukraine

- US aid fell by 99% in 2025.
- Europe increased:
 - Military aid by 67%.
 - Financial and humanitarian aid by 59%.

Monthly Average of Aid Allocation

2022 – April 2026, Real Terms, 2021 Price



Kiel Institute (2026) Military aid holds steady as focus shifts to drones

3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

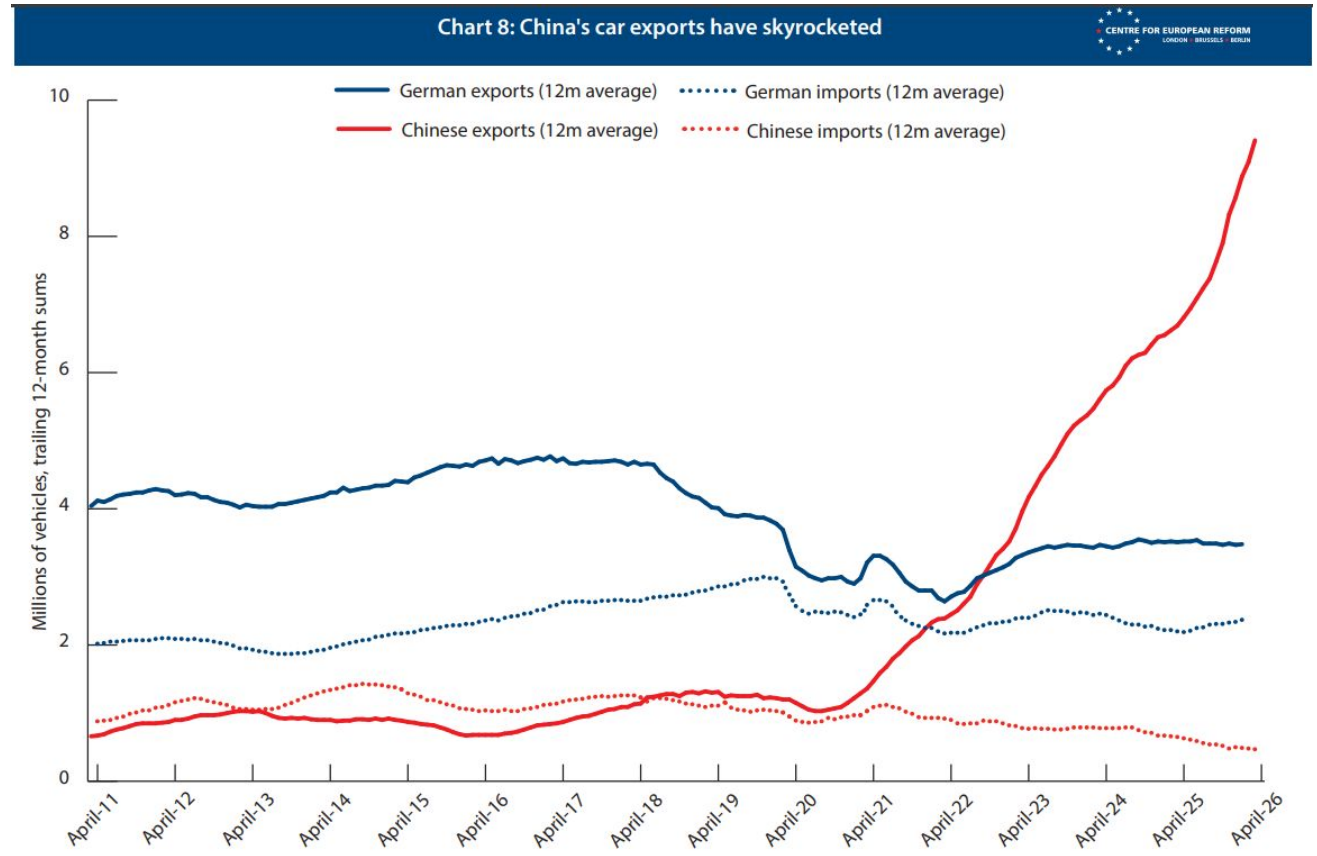
Economic security: The fracturing of transatlantic relations



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Economic security: Europe and the China Shock

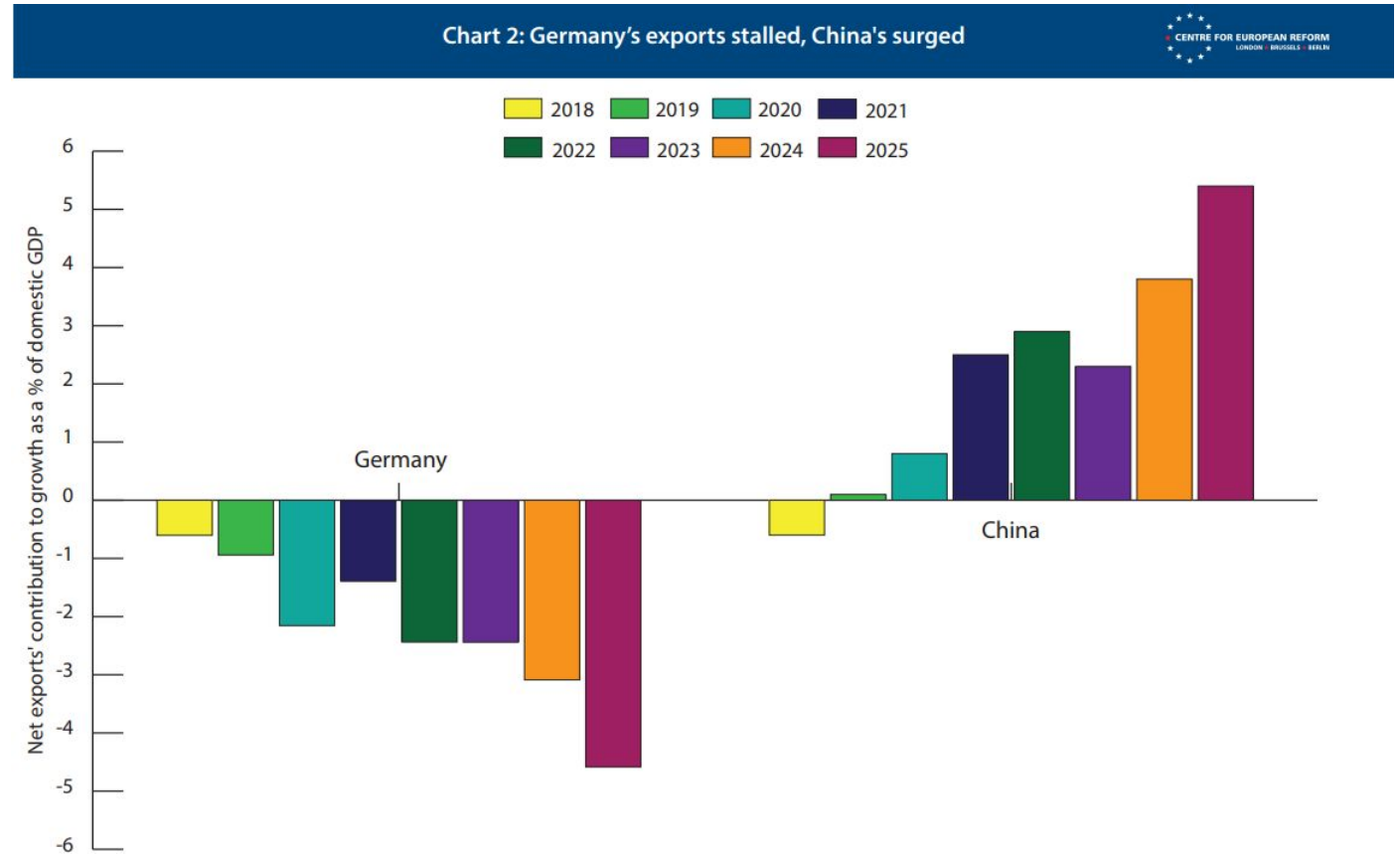
**Chinese Car Exports
Have Increased**



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Economic Security: Europe and the China Shock

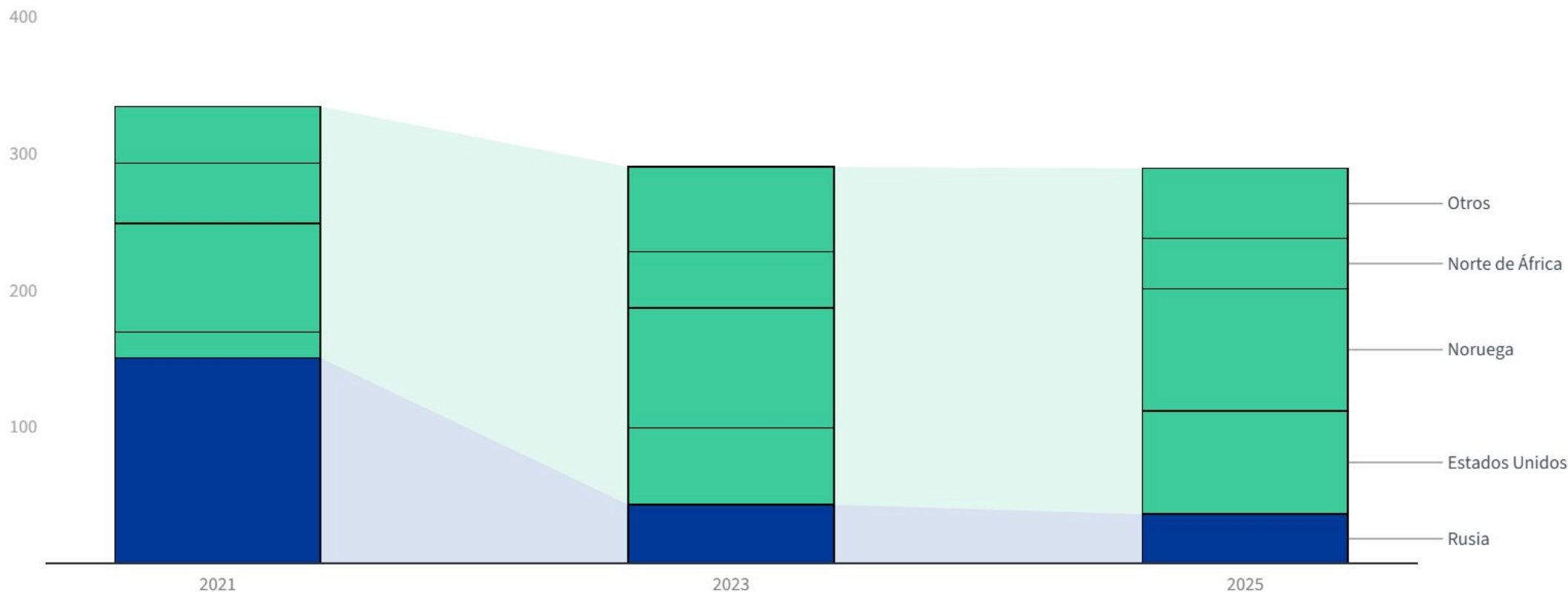
German exports are declining, while Chinese exports are rising



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Energy security

Trends in EU Natural Gas Imports (billions)

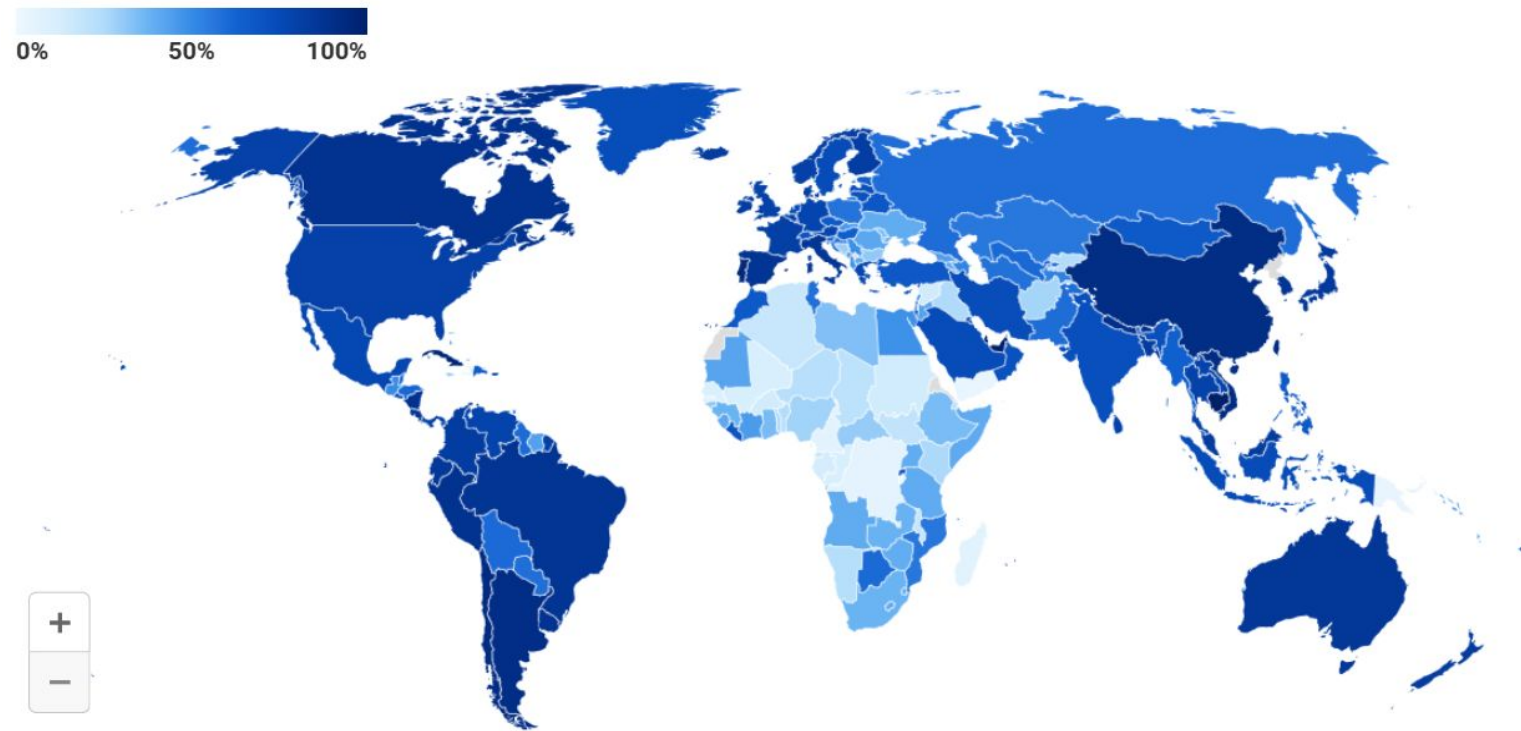


Fuente: Cálculos de la Comisión Europea a partir de LSEG (Refinitiv) y ENTSO-G

3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Health security

Percentage of the Population Having Received at Least One COVID-19 Vaccine Dose (2022)



Map: U.S. News & World Report • Source: [Our World in Data](#)

3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Food security: Hunger as a weapon of war



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Climate security



3. What Is Security? A Multidimensional Concept

Human security



4. Europe Must Take Control of Its Own Security

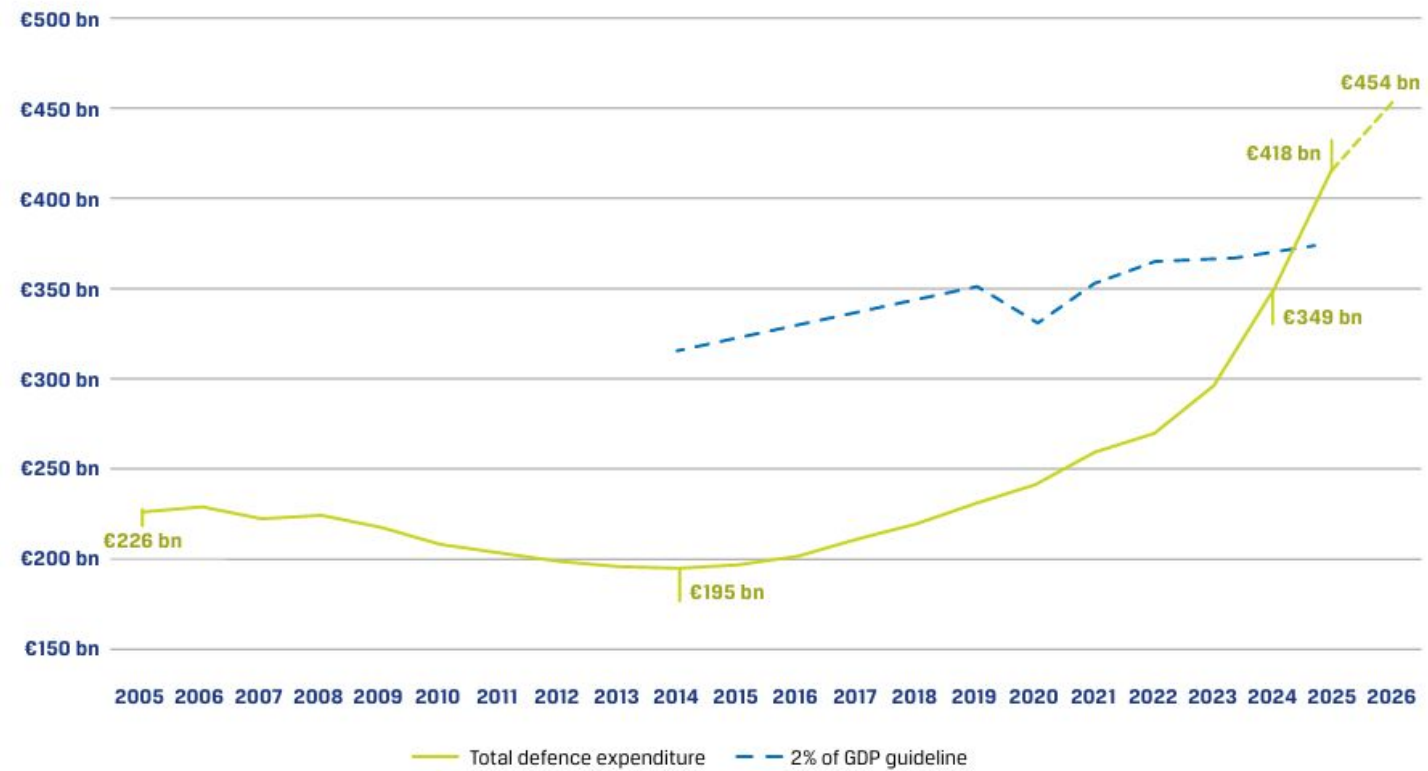


4. Europe Must Take Control of Its Own Security

€454 billion in defence expenditure in **2026**.

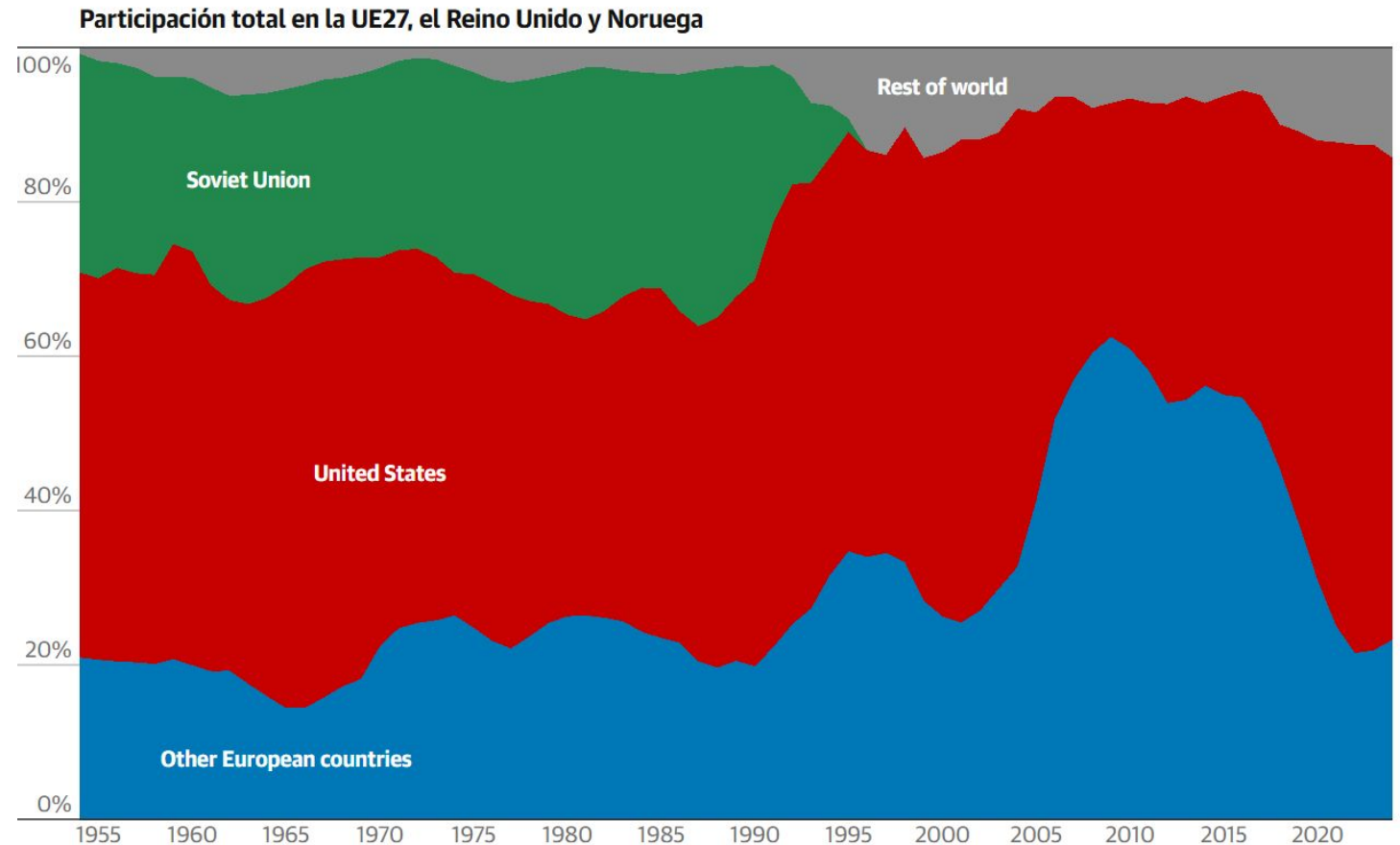
2.4% of EU GDP in **2026**.

Figure 1. Total defence expenditure



4. Europe Must Take Control of Its Own Security

64% of arms imported by European NATO members come from the United States.



Source: The Guardian, “Armed by America: How Europe’s Militaries Depend on the US — A Visual Analysis.” Data from SIPRI.

4. Europe Must Take Control of Its Own Security

Dependence on critical minerals Is also a security issue

