



WORLD CONFERENCE ON SECURITY STUDIES

Milan, Italy

10-12 October 2024

Power Dynamics and Security Dilemmas: Untangling Complexities in the Black Sea Region

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Abstract

The Black Sea region serves as a prime example of the "security dilemma", where one state's defensive actions inadvertently threaten its neighbors, significantly influencing NATO-Russia relations. This article delves into the theoretical framework of the security dilemma, drawing on the insights of Robert Jervis and Shiping Tang, and applies these concepts to the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Black Sea, particularly amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. By analyzing the offensive and defensive strategies of key players, the study assesses their implications for regional stability. It underscores how the security measures taken by NATO and Russia, intended to bolster their defenses, often intensify tensions and perpetuate a cycle of escalation. Additionally, the article outlines three potential scenarios for the region's future. Through a combination of empirical evidence and theoretical exploration, this research offers a nuanced perspective on the balance of power and the intricate security challenges facing this strategically critical area.

Keywords: Black Sea, NATO, Russia, Security dilemma, Ukraine conflict