

FOREWORD

Our book offers a multi-perspective discussion of European strategic autonomy or European sovereignty by highlighting the parallelism and overlaps between the two concepts during their development. The writers of the studies examine and analyse factors which may reinforce or, on the contrary, weaken the processes pointing towards some form of European strategic autonomy. The aim of the volume is manifold. Firstly, it provides a general overview on the history of European strategic autonomy and its building blocks. Secondly, in parallel with this, it offers the outline of the effects of the Russian aggression in Ukraine on European defence and strategic autonomy. Thirdly, it gives an outlook on the future of strategic autonomy.

The volume comprises three parts. Part I examines the historical background, the clarification of the concept, the role of the European Peace Facility, defence industry and resilience building in laying the foundations for European strategic autonomy. Part II discusses the process taking shape in specific policy areas of the European Union, including space and energy policy, defence innovation and efforts for digital sovereignty, while Part III places under scrutiny the interrelationships between national defence policies and the objective of European strategic autonomy in the case of three core members of the European Union, Germany, France and Italy, as well as two new members, Poland and Hungary. This part discusses the Member States' views on European strategic autonomy and sovereignty.

The edition of the volume was completed in 2025 and authors made all effort to include available up-to-date data. Although processes related to European strategic autonomy are unfolding fast, we hope that this book will prove a meaningful contribution to an in-depth understanding of this complex issue. We recommend the overview provided to students and researchers of EU affairs and international security and defence policy.

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