

TASKS FOR SELFSTUDY

Topic 10



ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY PRIVATIZATION (Economics of private military and security companies)

1. Try to explain terms “Mercenary (ies)”, “Private Military Companies”, Private Security Companies”. What is your sense of the difference between "contractors" and "mercenaries?" Is there one? Give some examples of identical and different their characteristics.
2. What are the historical roots of PMCs usage? Many think that what is going on today with private contractors is an echo to the use of mercenaries and other uses of private troops in history. Give some outline of historical development of Mercenaries and Private Military Companies usage. How is today's situation comparable to a time of the past? How is it different?
3. Describe the structure of PMCs market. What roles in fighting wars should be handled by the military and what should be outsourced?
4. Try to judge /evaluate/ the advantage and disadvantage usage of private military firms by National states for outsourcing some defense and military functions and other with defense and security linked services.
5. Do private military companies save money or not? Why or why not? What kind of experiences did the national states make from Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan theatre? Try to find out some (financial) scandals linked to defense or military outsourcing, describe and explain them.
6. Choose some examples of Private Military or Security Companies and characterise them (history, number of employees, provided services, scope of “armoury”, earned “fortune” a so on). Do you know if your national armed forces use private military companies services? Do you know any PMSCs which come from your country? This question can be chosen more than once.
7. What does the rise of the private military industry say about the role of nation-states in global security in the 21st century? What will the private military industry look like 20 years from now?