

The economic geopolitics of data and the future of dominance

Francesco Vitali, 2012, Research Associate, CSEND.

ABSTRACT of

NOMOS & KHAOS – The 2011-2012 Nomisma report on economic-strategic horizons
Observatory on Strategic and Security Scenarios; Rome 2012.

The purpose of this article was to identify the new key geopolitical and economic power factors related to “data control” and governments’ capacity to move from personal data control to event forecasting capability. The study provides an overview of cutting edge IT technologies, offers a strategic vision of the integrated use of the sciences from very different fields such as data mining and classification sciences, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, psycho-finance and semantic analysis. Special attention is given to the new security and defence “revolutionary” projects created in order to develop technological tools which allow for forecasting and manipulating individual and social behaviour. The growth of mobile devices and M2M connections, the adoption of IPV6, and the Big Data trends are analyzed in order to classify the hidden social risks and the emerging geopolitical conflicts at private and public level. The countries are subsequently classified based on their technological supremacy and on their capability to transform information into a strategic asset having geopolitical and geoeconomic value.

KEY WORDS

Geopolitical conflict, Big Data, social media, manipulation of social action, M2M, ipv6, data classification and management sciences, Darpa, smart grid, surveillance systems, Cloud Computing, analysis and forecasting sciences , data enrichment, privacy, cognitive psychology, Infowar, Arab Spring, Black Swan.

THE AUTHOR

Francesco Vitali is an expert in Information & Communication Technologies and strategic studies. After studying at universities in Italy and England, he specialised in international relations at the University of Texas in Austin (USA). He has worked for the Italian RAI television on various investigatory and in-depth analysis programmes, for the Italian Prime Minister’s Office, for consultancy companies in the marketing and communications sectors. He has been an advocate of strategic studies at Luiss Guido Carli and Senior Research Fellow at the Economic Geopolitics Study Centre. He currently works with the Italian Data Protection Authority and is a member of the Board of Teaching Staff for the research doctorate in Geopolitics and Economic Geopolitics at the Marconi on-line University in Rome.

e-mail: f.vitali_AT_garanteprivacy.it; e-mail: fv_AT_futurevision.it