

Abstract

This diploma thesis is a single case study focusing on the European Union's approach to the issue of critical materials as a security concern. Critical raw materials will play an increasingly important role in Europe due to the ambitious Green Deal policy. The technologies necessary to address environmental challenges require a significant share of materials identified as critical in Europe. However, the problem is that most of these materials are concentrated in unstable and undemocratic regimes, which may pose strategic rivals. This creates a threat that supplier states may use critical materials as a tool of power and thus jeopardize the economic security of European Union countries. This thesis examines critical materials as a phenomenon, analyzes their criticality and relationship to technologies. It further conducts an analysis of selected critical materials and their risks, particularly about the nature of supplier states. The final chapter addresses the European strategy in this area and describes how critical materials affect strategic technologies.