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Analyzing the Security Dilemma in the Arctic Region through the Lenses of Securitization

Abstract

This thesis aims to analyse the security dilemma in the Arctic region through the lenses of securitization. Therefore, threats and perceptions become relevant in assessing how securitization plays a key role in the security dilemma dynamics. In order to have an understanding of the forces behind the so-called ‘Polar Security Dilemma’, the United States and the Russian Federation have been chosen as case-studies. The methodology used is discourse analysis of both public speeches of the securitizing actors and military-strategic doctrines. The data is gathered through public databases, official transcripts and press releases of the respective governments. The military doctrines are taken from the White House’s website, and the Russian Federation ones are found translated in English. The expectations are to find how the progressive degradation of the relations between Russia and the US affected the Security Dilemma as regards the social construction of threats. This thesis will place great importance to the effects of the war in Ukraine, and how mistrust and worst-case assumptions hinder cooperation in the High North. By comparing the two countries, this research will serve as a basis to understand what has contributed to the social construction of the other as a threat. In particular, this research will be limited to the military domain and the perception of the military capabilities deployed.