Prof Dr Brosh Menahem Teucher, USA, Democratic Predation: Resource Competition in a Fragmenting World Order.

As the global order fragments under multiple pressures, small democracies increasingly engage in predatory behaviors against fellow democratic states. This paper examines a growing trend where resource scarcity, great power competition, and domestic pressures drive democratic nations to prioritize national interests over collective security. Drawing on international relations theories extending beyond democratic peace, the paper identifies multiple patterns of democratic predation, with particular focus on critical minerals competition manifested in the 2025 agreements between Ukraine and major Western democracies. As an example, the paper closely examines the UK's 100-year partnership with Ukraine, the bilateral security agreements with France and Germany, and the US-Ukraine minerals deal to demonstrate these competitive dynamics, where ostensible military support masks resource extraction motives. The paper explores the military-strategic implications for small democracies, proposing diplomatic, informational, economic, and military countermeasures these states might employ to protect their interests without undermining alliance cohesion. The research reveals how critical minerals access increasingly shapes defense capabilities and interstate relations, suggesting fundamental reconsideration of security planning that has traditionally focused on authoritarian threats rather than democratic partners' reliability. This emerging pattern challenges core assumptions about democratic cooperation, with significant implications for small states navigating an increasingly resource-constrained security environment.