

New book!

Rearming Europe. Politics, economics, technology

Edited by Mario Pianta

Preface by James K. Galbraith,

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Summary

Wars have returned on the international scene, and Europe's response has been fast in rearming decisions, but slow in political vision. From 2014 to 2024 NATO EU countries increased their military spending by 86%, and the 2025 EU White paper launched the Rearm Europe plan with €800 billion of new arms.

The book investigates the political, economic and technological dimensions of *Rearming Europe*, combining studies on militarisation, EU integration, the security context, the drivers and consequences of arms build-ups. The economic analysis shows the problematic outcomes of military expenditures, of the power of Europe's arms industry, of the expansion of EU military programmes. In technology, Europe is dependent on the digital and AI systems dominated by US Big Tech firms, that are now shaping arms races and new forms of warfare. The results show that *Rearming Europe* is not a viable development trajectory and imperils Europe's green transition and welfare states. In short, is bad economics.

The analysis of Europe's strategic landscape and defence policies suggests that *Rearming Europe* is unlikely to deliver greater security, and achieve in a meaningful way the European goals of strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty. In short, is rooted in delusional politics.

But there are alternatives for Europe's common security policies. And debating them is now a European priority.

Mario Pianta is professor of Economic Policy at Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence. He is co-chief editor of the journal Structural Change and Economic Dynamics and has been president of the Società Italiana di Economia. He works on political economy, war and peace issues, technology, growth and inequality.

James K. Galbraith, a former Executive Director of the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress, and former Chair of the Board of Economists for Peace and Security, holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin.

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