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Research Guide Series

Private Military and Security Companies

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Private Military Companies (PMCs)

Often closely linked in the mind of the public with mercenaries, Private Military Companies (PMCs) provide specialized expertise or services in the field of security, particularly in areas traditionally associated with governmental military and police forces. Though grouped under the general category of 'defence contractors', PMCs offer personnel with specialized tactical and operational skills rather than specialized hardware. Recent decades have seen a significant increase in the use of PMCs with the United States Department of Defense at the forefront of developments, and this in turn has led to increased attention on their legitimacy, their regulation, and the functions for which they may be employed.

This bibliography has been designed to provide a guide as to where to find information on private military companies. Please note that the list of references below is a selection of the more relevant titles and information on the subject. The list is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive but is an introductory guide to some of the resources available.

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