

Grey Zone Aggression:

Grey Zone aggression... can be seen as it is happening, can even see the impact of the behavior... however cannot prevent it or even prove it is happening.

Grey Zone aggression is highly experimental. The aggressor can try and fail. Everything is a discovery and attempt. There is no need for everything to be perfect every time.

Non-kinetic and non-military aggressions that...are real or even perceived threats/attacks/interference in...

- Elections
- Economy
- Business security
- Supply chains
- **Intellectual Property (IP) Theft**
- Power and utilities

Examples and innovations in Grey Zone aggression:

- China's sudden advancements in certain technologies strongly suggest IP theft.
- Salisbury assassination attempts
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poisoning_of_Sergei_and_Yulia_Skripal
- Belarus --- May 2021. Forced Ryan Air flight to divert from Athens Greece to Vilnius Lithuania. Forced to land in Minsk. Fake report used to arrest journalist in Minsk. The Bela-Russian authorities didn't even care that the world saw the fake bomb report was used to arrest an opposition journalist. EU put sanctions against Belarus. This led to Belarus borders being 'weaponized' about immigration by providing passports and other documents allowing certain people into Europe with the explicit purpose of sowing chaos. This is GREY in that there are no explicit rules against these techniques.
- Sweden... disinformation programs convinced Muslim populations (in Arabic) that Swedish authorities were capturing/rounding up Muslim

children. In response, Muslim population formed protests against Swedish govt for things that were not happening. Sweden created an agency specifically to defend against disinformation.

- Grey Zone aggression is being used to compel a target nation to change a policy or position in favor of the attacking nation.
- 2020-2021 1st Norwegian Nobel committee (not affiliated with the government) awards Chinese dissident prize. China's response was to declare "mysterious organisms" found in Norwegian fish – thereby disrupting/halting sales and exporting of Norwegian seafood.
- Chinese tariffs on Australian wine makers after Australia calls for investigation into the COVID source (in China).
- Attacks on Finnish and Swedish powerplants designed to spread distrust or fear domestic threats – real or perceived.
- Chinese balloons over the US airspace.... Was an effective method of disruption because it raised criticism of the US Air Force and the current administration. LOTS of "I would have" or "We would have" or "Administration is weak" statements being spread.
- "Shadow Fleet" of vessels internationally moving sanctioned or banned goods. Just outside Swedish EEZ, beyond their reach but a plausible environmental disaster.
- Sabotaging undersea cables.... Successful because it cannot be proved that it was intentional and known by the aggressor when it happened. Regardless, this type of attack does not necessarily fall under NATO article 5. Is an amendment needed? A new threshold needing to be defined so Grey Zone Aggression is not-so-grey? A better definition of an appropriate NATO response?
- China inspecting all vessels transitioning through the Taiwan strait... it is a way to cause disruption and create fear of greater impacts.
- Trends in degrading trust in US elections. The targets are the mechanisms of the elections. Through disinformation and well-publicized attempts to degrade ballot machines. Even if elections are not directly impacted, the

degradation public perception is enough of a success. This 'public contract' with the population is the target, not necessarily the election results itself.

- My question about the BRICS alliance engaging in Grey Zone Aggression: BRICS have nations that are on the fence politically. Not all BRICS nations would support Grey Zone Aggression but would benefit from it tangentially. The Shadow Fleet is an example. The UAE, India, Seychelles, are the registered nations of many of the shadow vessels. This enables the activity. On a similar note, the 'Flags of convenience' nations, are registries lending their countries flags to shadow vessels. This also enables the shadow fleet. These are nations that could be 'reasoned with' by the US.