

Russian influence in the Czech Republic as a grey zone case study

Baqués-Quesada, J.
Colom-Piella, G.

Abstract

In recent years, the concept of grey zone has been popularised to analyse the activities a State can use to influence the decisions and to limit the strategic choices of another State below the threshold of war. This article presents a case study, aimed at verifying if the Russian activities in the Czech Republic may constitute a grey zone. The paper commences by introducing the concept of the grey zone and developing the appropriate theoretical framework to identify its main characteristics. It continues by examining the Russian influence in the Czech Republic by using open sources, local sources and documents from the Czech intelligence services. It concludes by asserting that the analysed case meets most of the requirements to classify it as a 'limited grey zone'. This new theoretical development may help to assess similar situations that may occur in this or other nations.

Author keywords

Active measures
Czech Republic
Disinformation
Grey zone
Hybrid threat
Political influence
Russia