



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project
2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects
to Support Post-Doctoral Researchers

Title of the research project: Competitive Arming and Militarised Disputes: A Case Study of Greece and Turkey from 1833 to present

Principal Investigator: Dr Ioannis Nioutsikos

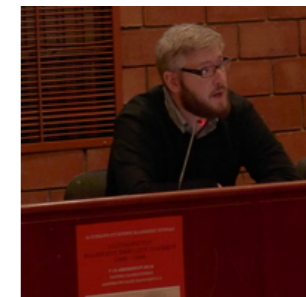
Reader-friendly title: ARCADE

Scientific Area: Social Sciences

Institution and Country: University of Piraeus, University of the Peloponnese, Greece

Host Institution: University of the Peloponnese

**Collaborating Institutions: Institute of International Relations, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens
The Sir Michael Howard Centre for the History of War, King's College London, London**



Budget: €131,182.00

Duration: 30 months

Research Project Synopsis

Today, we observe a significant increase in competitive arming around the globe. As arms races have been linked with the escalation of disputes to war, the recent developments render the academic study of the origins and consequences of arms races imperative. Still, the study of the arms races phenomenon is suffering by the division between quantitative and qualitative approaches. The former focusing on whether arms races correlate with war, suffers from lack of reliable data. On the other hand, qualitative studies do not agree on whether arms races pose threats to international peace, and fail to explain why some arms races lead to war while others fizzle out. The present project sets out to overcome this scientific deadlock by suggesting the very first interdisciplinary approach to the subject of arms races. In particular, it seeks to examine modern Greece and Turkey since 1833, in order to identify the external and internal factors that give rise to and sustain arms races, and to explain the relationship between arms races and militarized disputes. These two countries were selected because they constitute a neglected case in academic literature; they have a long-time engagement into competitive arming; a history of conflicts preceded by arms races; and a plethora of internal factors that influenced arms procurement. The research methodology combines both qualitative and quantitative analysis, and applies the analytical tools of history, political science, economics and analytics. The results of the project will be disseminated through the publication of scientific articles and the organisation of executive workshops and talks, and finally, the project will lead to the establishment of the very first digital database with regards to armaments in Greece.

Project originality

In spite a plethora of studies on arms races, there is no consensus regarding their correlation to war, while the literature suggests contradictory policies focusing either on domestic or external factors that give rise to and sustain arms races. Furthermore, the study of the arms races phenomenon is suffering by the division between quantitative and qualitative approaches. The former focusing on whether arms races correlate with war, suffers from lack of reliable data. On the other hand, qualitative studies do not agree on whether arms races pose threats to international peace, and fail to explain why some arms races lead to war while others fizzle out. The present project sets out to overcome this scientific deadlock by suggesting the very first interdisciplinary approach to the subject of arms races in order to bridge the gap between quantitative and qualitative studies. The sample that the project focuses on is the competitive armaments between modern Greece and Turkey, which represent an almost ignored case in the academic literature on arms races. Indeed, the project aims to provide a comprehensive account of the evolution of Greek -Turkish arms races, their causes, and their relationship with international conflict by combining methodological tools of history, political science, economics, and analytics. Another innovative aspect is the creation by the research team of the first ever digital database regarding the procurement of armaments by Greece and Turkey. Last but not least, in contrast with studies whose results remain confined in the academic sphere, the research team will actively engage with decision-makers, the military, and the general public to disseminate the results of the project. In sum, the project aspires to a scientific breakthrough by overcoming the methodological divisions of the past, and by providing insights into a neglected, though original, case study.

Expected results & Research Project Impact

The significance of the subject is highlighted by the fact that competitive arming is as old as the relations between states. The first example of arming that alarmed an adversary was the construction of the Long Walls by Athens in the 5th century BC. This development increased the insecurity of the rival city-state of Sparta, and had a tremendous effect on the relations between the two cities and the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War. In general, arms races are so crucial a factor affecting state security that the study of arms races is an integral part of the discipline of international relations. Furthermore, armament investments consume an enormous percentage of a nation's resources, at the expense of human, social, and economic development. Most importantly, arms races have been linked to the outbreak of armed conflicts, thereby setting peace at stake. In spite a plethora of studies on arms races, there is no consensus regarding their correlation to war. Furthermore, the literature suggests contradictory policies focusing either on domestic or external factors. This lack of comprehension is becoming more alarming today, when arms spending is again up globally. In Asia, Iran and Saudi Arabia are engaged into a conventional arms race. A process of competitive arming in South China Sea is already under way. Arms race is also emerging in Europe. The recent events in Ukraine rekindled competitive armament between Russia and the West, particularly the Baltic states. Finally, recent events in Eastern Mediterranean have renewed the procurement of armaments in Greece and Turkey. All these developments pose a threat to peace and international security, and render the study of the origins and consequences of arms races imperative. The proposed project aspires to have an impact on science and society by providing insights into factors that may lead to arms races and, by extension, militarized disputes. Furthermore, as arms procurement is a huge burden on state budget, a deeper understanding of competitive arming may enhance the optimal allocation of government funds. Indeed, the project will provide useful conclusions and suggestions for the state and society and, in particular, decision makers, senior civil servants and military officers, strategists and politicians of small to medium size states. Finally, an aspect of the project with a long-lasting impact will be the creation of a database and specialized tools intended for crowd sourcing data compilation, which will remain open for public use after the completion of the present project.

The importance of this funding

The H.F.R.I funding allows us to assemble a research team of highly-qualified young academics who have studied in the United Kingdom and the United States and have great prospects, in order to conduct academic research of sterling quality in our home country, Greece. Furthermore, the financial support of H.F.R.I enables us to implement a large-scale research project which can provide useful conclusions to science and society. Finally, the support of H.F.R.I allows us to link the excellent research that is being conducted in the Greek universities with the cutting-edge research that is being carried out abroad through the collaboration with foreign institutions, and thus, it promotes the production of research findings with high impact on the international level.



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