

GLOBAL POWERS AND THE USE OF DRONES: LEGAL GROUNDS AND STRATEGIC MOTIVES

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The proliferation of drone technology has transformed the security doctrines and operational strategies of major global powers. This section analyzes the policies and practices of four leading states in the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs): United States, Israel, Russia, and China. The United States has conducted extensive drone operations across multiple regions, primarily targeting terrorist networks. While Washington justifies these actions under self-defense and counterterrorism doctrines, they have sparked international criticism over legality, civilian casualties, and lack of transparency.

Israel, a pioneer in drone technology, has integrated UAVs into both offensive and defensive operations, particularly in asymmetrical warfare environments, showcasing real-time surveillance and precision targeting capabilities. Russia's approach is focused on regional security, especially within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), using drones for reconnaissance, border control, and strategic deterrence. Meanwhile, China has rapidly developed indigenous drone systems, positioning itself as a global UAV exporter and increasingly using drone technology for surveillance, maritime control, and power projection in contested regions.

The paper highlights the diverse motivations, legal rationales, and strategic implications associated with each country's drone doctrine.

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