

FROM MINE TO BATTLEFIELD

Critical materials
for the defence industry

Authors: Teresa de Fortuny, Xavier Bohigas



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The energy transition and emerging technologies inevitably require certain materials for which there are currently no viable substitutes with the same level of efficiency. When these materials are scarce or not readily available, they are classified as critical. This report focuses on the needs of the defence industry for such critical materials. This is a pressing issue, as difficulties in accessing these materials could disrupt the supply of weapon systems to armed forces.

The first section of the report looks at the specific needs of the defence sector. It draws on official documents and statements from both the United States and the European Union, as well as reports from various research institutes.

The second section examines how the issue of access to critical materials is perceived by government agencies in the US and the EU. It also outlines the various strategies that have been proposed to deal with the problem, both from a governmental perspective and from the research institutes mentioned above. These strategies include military options, as set out in various security strategy documents.

The third section discusses the wider environmental and social impacts of mining, with a particular focus on some of the materials identified as critical.

The report concludes with a section containing several final considerations. It suggests that a drastic reduction in military spending, and therefore arms production, would ease the geopolitical tensions caused by supply problems in the military industry, not to mention diminish the environmental impact of militarism, ultimately making the world a safer and more sustainable place.



If you appreciate our research
and want to help us keep our rigour and independence,
you can become a member
or make a donation by scanning the
QR code or on this link:
<http://centredelas.org/fes-te-soci-a/?lang=en>

CENTRE DELÀS
D'ESTUDIS
PER LA PAU

Read the full report at:

<https://centredelas.org/publicacions/de-la-mina-al-camp-de-batalla/?lang=en>

Graphic design: Esteva&Estêvão

With the support of:

