



SECURITY WITHOUT TRUST? THE NEW PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE CRISIS OF EURO-MEDITERRANEAN GOVERNANCE

The New Pact for the Mediterranean, the article contends, must move beyond the EU's migration-centric security paradigm in order to function as an effective strategic framework and be redesigned in line with co-security. Examining the Mediterranean as a dense regional security complex, it explores how climate stress, maritime militarization, geo-economic competition, cyber vulnerability, exposure to critical infrastructure and transnational illicit economies interact with entrenched governance deficits and socioeconomic fragmentation. Under these conditions, deterrence-oriented policies, sea interceptions and externalized border management may yield short-term, quantifiable outputs but perform poorly strategically, displacing people rather than addressing root causes and eroding EU legitimacy and «normative capital». The Pact's three-pillar structure is thus seen as a political umbrella that repackages existing instruments while leaving institutional overload, implementation gaps and power asymmetries largely intact. Adopting an international relations and political science perspective, the article develops a conceptual framework to rethink security “from containment to co security” through upstream prevention, multilevel ownership and the intersection of hard security with resilience, rights and accountability, arguing that governance design and enforceable safeguards are key to a genuinely “Common Mediterranean Space”.