

2016-2022

Geopolitical Outlook



Homeland Security Research Corp.

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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Geopolitical Outlook 2022

Even the most earth-shattering global events are difficult and sometimes impossible for the ostensibly most well informed governments and organizations to anticipate indeed, they are difficult to anticipate as they happen. By their very nature, global, political and especially HLS Public Safety related transformational events forecasting can never be solved by a bright analyst or a number crunching super algorithm. Out in the real world, events gain an unpredictable momentum based on factors that no current model can account for which is another way of saying that political science cannot perfectly comprehend the full spectrum of human nature. Such an uncertainty is what makes homeland security and public safety affairs quite interesting in the first place.

- ❑ The international order is in the midst of profound change ever since the end of the cold war.
- ❑ The world of 2022 will differ markedly from the world of 2013 and in the intervening years, the United States will face major international challenges that differ significantly from those that we face today.
- ❑ The very magnitude and speed of change resulting from a globalizing world, regardless of its precise character, will be a defining feature of the world out in 2022.
- ❑ Other significant characteristics include:
 - The contradictions of globalization
 - Rising powers: the changing geopolitical landscape
 - New challenges to governance
 - New challenges of terror, organized crime and high level natural disasters
 - A more pervasive sense of insecurity
- ❑ As with previous upheavals, the seeds of major change have been laid in the trends apparent today. Underlying the broad characteristics listed above are a number of specific trends that overlap and play off each other:
 - The expanding global economy
 - The accelerating pace of scientific change and the dispersion of dual-use technologies
 - Lingering social inequalities
 - Emerging powers
 - The global aging phenomenon
 - Halting democratization

- Transformation of organized crime
- A spreading radical Islamic ideology
- The potential for catastrophic terrorism
- The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- The effects of cyber crime

With that in mind and with the utmost possible humility, what follows is a rather vague and probably wrong HLS and public safety market forecast for the coming ten years, which may be incorrect but could prove as a warning sign.

Table 1 - Global Geopolitical Scenario 2022 Outlook

Relative Certainties	Key Uncertainties
Globalization largely irreversible, likely to become less Westernized	Whether globalization will pull in lagging economies; degree to which Asian countries set new “rules of the game”
World economy substantially larger	Extent of gaps between “haves” and “have-nots” backsliding by fragile democracies; managing or containing financial crises
Increasing number of global firms facilitate spread of new technologies	Extent to which connectivity challenges governments
Rise of Asia and advent of possible new economic middle-weights	Whether rise of China/India occurs smoothly
Aging populations in established powers	Ability of EU and Japan to adapt work forces, welfare systems, and integrate migrant populations; whether EU becomes a superpower
Energy supplies “in the ground” sufficient to meet global demand	Political instability in producer countries; supply disruptions
Growing power of nonstate actors	Willingness and ability of states and international institutions to accommodate these actors
Political Islam remains a potent force	Impact of religiosity on unity of states and potential for conflict; growth of jihadist ideology
Improved WMD capabilities of some states	More or fewer nuclear powers; ability of terrorists to acquire biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear weapons
Arc of instability spanning Middle East, Asia, Africa	Precipitating events leading to overthrow of regimes
Great power conflict escalating into total war unlikely	Ability to manage flashpoints and competition for resources
Environmental and ethical issues even more to the fore	Extent to which new technologies create or resolve ethical dilemmas
U.S. will remain single most powerful actor economically, technologically, militarily	Whether other countries will more openly challenge Washington; whether US loses S&T edge

More information can be found at:

[Global Homeland Security & Public Safety Market – 2015-2022](#)