



Daniel K. Inouye  
Asia-Pacific Center for  
Security Studies

# Senior Security Studies Course

## Bangsaen, Chonburi

### November 18-22, 2019



Strategic Studies Center,  
National Defence Studies  
Institute

TOPIC OVERVIEW

## TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

DR. VIRGINIA B. WATSON, PH.D.

### Overview

Technological progress is closely tied to a nation's geostrategic conception of their world. In the Indo-Pacific region, the attributes of the technology-security nexus reflect, influence, and may predict the geopolitical shape of the region. A nation's technological status determines or mirrors its position in the region's security order. Technological leadership and the creation of technological competitive advantage are therefore essential attributes of any nation aspiring to geopolitical dominance. This demands a whole-of-nation transformational thinking by that nation's leadership and its people. At the same time, technological developments pose unique opportunities, risks and challenges to national and regional security. How nations understand security and how they reconcile this with their technological choices present us with a complex patchwork of security trajectories in the region, full of surprises, disruptions, and disorder.

### Objectives

- Understand the role of technology in the geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.
- Identify the security risks and challenges associated with emerging technologies.
- Examine possible modalities for enhancing technology cooperation in the region.

### Recommended Readings

Gholz, Eugene. "Emerging Technologies' Potential to Change the Balance of Power in Asia," in Bitzinger, R. and H. Vlavianos, eds. Emerging Critical Technologies and Security in the Asia-Pacific. Palgrave-Macmillan: 2016.

<https://www.palgrave.com/br/book/9781137461278>

Watson, Virginia S. "Offsetting the Impact of Emerging Critical Technologies," in Bitzinger, R. and H. Vlavianos, eds. Emerging Critical Technologies and Security in the Asia-Pacific. Palgrave-Macmillan: 2016.

<https://www.palgrave.com/br/book/9781137461278>

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Agile%20Governance\\_for\\_Creative\\_Economy\\_4.0\\_Report.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Agile%20Governance_for_Creative_Economy_4.0_Report.pdf)

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Top\\_10\\_Emerging\\_Technologies\\_2019\\_Report.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Top_10_Emerging_Technologies_2019_Report.pdf)

### Suggested Resources

<https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/userfiles/file/reportpdf/GII2019-keyfindings-Web.pdf>

<http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2018/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2018.pdf>