

Gesprek | Chip Wars

How We Got Here, Why They Matter and What Our Technological Future Will Look Like

Activiteit van Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

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Computerchips spelen in de huidige geopolitieke conflicten een centrale rol. In veel debatten worden ze als nieuwe uitdagingen gezien, maar de geopolitiek van computerchips heeft een diepe en complexe geschiedenis. In de zesde editie van onze reeks 'Geopolitics of Technology' spreken wij hierover met onderzoekers Raluca Csernatonu (Brussel), Cyrus Mody (Maastricht) en Mario Daniels (DIA).

Computer chips have taken center stage in the current geopolitical conflicts. Many debates tend to depict these issues as new challenges, but they are not. The geopolitics of computer chips has a deep and complicated history. In this sixth event of our “Geopolitics of Technology” series, we will discuss how decades of globalization have built and rebuilt our supply chains; why and how states have always played a key role in chip markets; and how and why concepts of economic, political and military power intersect particularly in this technological field.

The European Union, the United States, China, Russia, and the Asian industrial powers of Taiwan, South Korean and Japan jostle for technological dominance in the global supply chains, market control, and access to cutting-edge technologies. Indeed, vigorous state interventions have begun to profoundly reshape the way computer chips are developed and produced - with major effects on the global geography of chip markets.

The EU, the U.S. and China have embarked on large-scale industrial policy initiatives to reduce technological and economic interdependencies and enhance national

control. They seem to agree that securing (or establishing) global technological leadership is the key to power in the international system.

The U.S. has mobilized its export controls to keep the Chinese chip industry behind. Denial of computer chips also plays a major role in the economic sanctions against Russia after the invasion of Ukraine. And the political intricacies of the Taiwan question are exacerbated by the fact that it is the global center of chip production.

This evening we will not only discuss where we are and how we came here. We will also attempt to assess where we are headed. Will the present “chip wars” pave the way to the de-globalization and national compartmentalization of technology? Will they contribute to the escalation of the simmering political conflicts between the EU, the U.S. and China?

[Read more about the speakers](#)

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'Geopolitics of Technology' is an event series of the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam, the [Amsterdam Center for European Studies](#) and the [Stiftung Neue Verantwortung](#).

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