Definitions of Hegemony and the European Union’s Power Game

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May 3, 2011
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This paper is written to open a discussion of whether the EU can seek or attain world hegemony in the future. With many scholars discussing the rise of the BRIC countries, the economic power and political pioneering of the EU has been overlooked when considering rising world powers. Opening with a discussion of the definition of hegemony considering John Mearsheimer’s Offensive Realism, A.F.K. Organski’s Power Transition Theory, and Neo-Gramscian thought on International Relations, the paper turns to employing these ideas into an examination of current EU trends and statistics. Factors such as population growth, military strength, and the importance of ideas are all descanted in order to debate on the subject of EU hegemony. Also, the idea of autonomy’s role in international organizations such as the EU is reflected upon in hopes to shed a theoretical light on power potential ceilings for these organizations in the international political order.