Strategic Resources Observatory

PRESENTATION OF THE OBSERVATORY

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I. The scope

The Strategic Resources Observatory is one of the departments of the Institut Français des Mondes Eurasiatiques (IFME). It focuses on strategic resources across Eurasia, covering five main areas: minerals, energy, infrastructure, natural resources, and institutions. Across these areas, the Observatory combines geographical analysis and cartography to understand how resources, infrastructure, and supply chains shape Eurasian spaces.

- **Minerals** are central to the Observatory's work, including critical raw materials such as uranium, copper, lithium, rare earths, chromium, manganese, nickel, cobalt, and graphite.
- **Energy** research focuses on strategic energy resources and their geographical dynamics, including oil, gas, uranium, and renewable energy, as well as the infrastructures and networks that connect production to consumption.
- **Infrastructure** analysis examines railways, ports, pipelines, roads, and industrial hubs, highlighting their role in resource transportation, regional connectivity, and supply chains.
- **Natural resources** research explores the geographical distribution and strategic importance of resources such as water and agricultural land, including their relationship with production, climate, and regional dynamics.
- **Institutions** are also part of the Observatory's scope, with a focus on the actors, governance frameworks, institutional dynamics but also blocs & Alliances vulgarisation in Eurasia.
- **Socio-cultural, religious, and linguistic geography** examines the cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity of Eurasia, exploring identities, communities, and historical dynamics.

The main goal is to produce maps for inclusion in the IFME's database.

II. Cartographic Production

Mapping will be the core pillar of the Observatory's output, serving two main purposes: producing original research and supporting researchers in visualizing their findings.

1. Research and Analysis

The Observatory will produce its own forward-looking cartographic analyses in collaboration with established researchers and PhD experts in geology, geography or geopolitics. These projects will examine the geographical dynamics of critical resources and dependencies across Eurasia. The goal is to make researchers'work more accessible to a wider audience by translating complex research findings into clear and scientifically grounded maps.

2. Cartographic Support for Researchers

The Observatory will also produce maps for researchers whose articles or projects require geographical visualization. Working closely with authors, the cartographer will transform their data and findings into accurate, publication-ready maps that clarify arguments and strengthen the analytical value of their work.

In both cases, cartography will serve as a vulgarisation tool. The first activity develops the Observatory's own research agenda, while the second supports IFME's researchers in communicating their findings through cartographic representations.

III. Cartographic editorial pillars

Cartography is a defining feature of the Observatory and a central part of its analytical approach. The Observatory will translate data on resources, production, infrastructure, processing capacities and supply routes into map representations with :

- ArcGis, QGIS, Affinity, Adobe or Canva (only infographic)

Maps will be used as an analytical tool and Infographics will complement the cartographic work by presenting complex data through charts, timelines, comparative tables and other visual formats. More broadly, the Observatory's visual production will rely on two complementary formats :

1. Cartography will provide the spatial and analytical backbone (maps, GIS-based visualizations);
2. Infography will translate complex datasets into digestible visual narratives (charts, timelines, comparison matrices);

All maps must strictly follow the Observatory's official graphic charter.

It defines the visual standards and cartographic guidelines to ensure consistency across all publications. Compliance is essential: maps that do not respect these guidelines may not be approved for publication. Please consult the Graphic Charter before producing or submitting any map :

- Graphic Charter
- Web Page
- IFME and Observatory Logo

If you have any questions, contact us at minerals@ifmeurasia.org

Thank you.