

This study attempts a broad, structural analysis of an important part of the Swedish security environment. It focuses on the relations among the Western, advanced, industrial states. These nations are said to form an international system characterized by interdependence. The Swedish security position can partly be defined within the structure of this system. It is the purpose of this study to help clarify how Swedish participation in this interdependent system may affect the country's national security position.

Once the concept of interdependence is dissected, the study offers a broad analysis of the structures and processes prevalent in an international interdependent system. Following this overview, some national effects of participation in an interdependent system are outlined. Both risks and opportunities for enhancing national security are included.

Finally, some alternative strategies for coping with participation in an interdependent system are presented. Emphasis is given to means which may be relevant to Swedish security. It should be stressed at the outset that this study does not claim to produce any new, basic research results. Rather, it hopes to present widely scattered international findings in a brief but comprehensive manner. The ambition is mainly to draw on existing, more specialized studies to illuminate an often ignored aspect of the Swedish security environment. Hopefully, the report may stimulate to other, more detailed investigations of the seemingly most relevant aspects.

The purpose is to point to some neglected but important Swedish security concerns. It does not include offering any definite solutions to the dilemmas of interdependence.