

Choke Points: American Power in the Age of Economic Warfare

Review by Evelien van Hilten

We are accustomed to thinking about war in terms of military power and physical violence. However, Edward Fishman's book **Chokepoints ** (2022) examines a new, highly intrusive form of warfare: economic warfare. This could include sanctions, export controls, and financial restrictions.

Fishman takes you behind the scenes how the United States over the years “choke points” or exceptionally strong deploying positions of power to countries like Iran and to hit Russia in places where they difficult or impossible to get around. It deals not so much about physical choke points here, like the Strait of Hormuz, but precisely to modern positions of power, such as the un-taking access to the American dollar or SWIFT. The creativity that the US The involvement here is discussed in detail and makes it a fascinating and unique book.

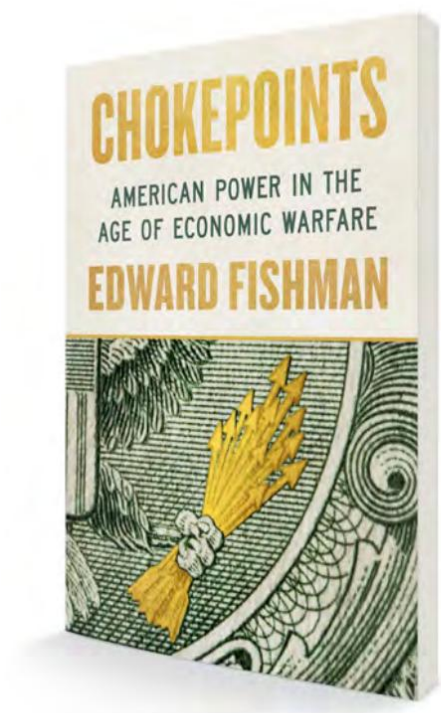
In the current market conditions, it offers the book readers' context in the years relationship between the US and Iran, whereby via formal channels, but also specifically informal ones routes is Iran gradually gaining access denied access to important infrastructure, causing the trading of oil very became complex. Not so much a UN sanction was the deciding factor, but the threatening to deny access to the American financial system made that global all financial institutions turned their backs on Iran.

For China, denying access to advanced technology an important

instrument to the growth of the Chinese to slow down the economy. Threats towards ASML, for example, such as the withheld from access to the American market when it is the latest technology supplies to China, prove to be very effective in this regard.

The book does make clear that *economic warfare* is not new. Trump wears it more explicitly out that he deploys this means of power, yet is He is not the first president to use this. According to Fishman, this way of waging war is also here to stay. he rightly for the nuanced approach of this means of power, so that it is effective remains. He also explicitly compares it to physical warfare. This involves training and strategy needed to really succeed. Does If America doesn't do that, then countries like will China, but also Europe, emphasize creating your own alternative for “choke points”, whereby the power of the US becomes smaller in the long term Fishman already has good foresight to have.

In short: highly recommended, entertaining to to read, and a good way to the new to better understand the world order.



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