

The Relevance of Policy to Maritime Piracy and Anti- Piracy

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Previously, my seminars focused on the state of piracy today and the economic issues brought up by it. Starting from that point, I will move forward towards tying those aspects together with policy, both what is in place and what could be done. Going over old ground to reach new territory, this seminar will focus on three things: the current situation in terms of piracy worldwide, the anti-piracy techniques and strategies in use, and where policy becomes relevant in terms of finding solutions.

Enforcement of maritime security on the high seas is complicated by many things, primarily the sheer amount of territory involved. Other factors include laws (most notably UNCLOS), decisions made by shipowners and captains, and the attitudes of local states. Many solutions have been proposed, and I will try to examine the more popular of them, including arming merchant vessels, on-board security escorts, and altering the use of naval forces.