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Droneomics II

Last year at ICES, Droneomics I examined the Drone ecosystem and the economic arbitrage warfare that Drone warfare allowed, plus an initial view of what this implied based mainly on the information emerging from the Russo Ukraine War. Droneomics II covers three main areas.

Firstly, it updates the Drone ecosystem to cover the huge changes that have occurred in one year, the main areas being naval and land drones which have had a major impact in the Russo Ukraine War (and by the time this paper is read, probably in the Iran War); plus use of drones and other systems in anti-drone warfare.

Secondly it expands the economic arbitrage discussion to cover emerging data from the Iran War and Houthi activities in the Red Sea, activities in other conflicts, and how drones are moving into private organisational usage.

Thirdly, it goes further than last year in discussing the implications for economic warfare and wider security issues. Four main themes are discussed, viz: (i) the implications of obsolescence for existing weapon systems in major nations' militaries (arguendo: the best decision any State has made for the last 20 years is to buy no new weapons), (ii) the implications for future asymmetric warfare (the commoners all have crossbows, what are the knights to do?); (iii) the early lessons from of "private drone wars"; and (iv) the emergence of actual "robot v robot" battles.