SUMMARY

This thesis makes an original contribution to understanding the structure and functioning of economic models applied to the defense industry through a comparative and integrated analysis that encompasses both the economic perspective and the geopolitical, institutional, and technological dimensions.

An important result of the research is the identification of the structural conditions necessary for the effective functioning of the European hybrid model: institutional coherence, strategic convergence between states, incentives for innovation, coordinated procurement mechanisms, and reduced rivalry between national industrial champions.

A detailed analysis of four EU Member States—Germany, France, Italy, and Poland—reveals distinct trajectories in building strategic autonomy, reflecting historical, economic, and cultural differences. France and Germany are acting as drivers of European industrial and technological integration, Italy is pursuing a niche strategy combined with participation in joint projects, and Poland is following a strategy of accelerated consolidation coupled with transatlantic openness. Based on these findings, the paper argues that European strategic autonomy cannot be achieved without functional alignment between national strategies and common industrial development objectives.

The case study on Romania adds a regional analytical dimension, highlighting the opportunities and constraints specific to a country in post-communist transition. The paper proposes a strategic direction for industrial specialization for Romania within European initiatives, suggesting that a coherent industrial policy focused on integration into European production chains and the development of indigenous technological capabilities can transform the national defense sector into a vector for economic development and security.

In conclusion, the research supports the need for a unified and proactive European economic policy in the field of defense, capable of transforming this sector into an essential pillar of strategic autonomy. At the same time, it highlights that economic policies applied in the defense industry can have positive effects on the national economy by stimulating innovation, creating jobs, and reducing external vulnerabilities. Thus, the paper contributes to the development of an integrated perspective on European economic security in an international context marked by instability, technological competition, and the need for profound strategic adaptation.