



# The Marketisation of Policing in an International Context

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## ***Introduction***

- Florquin (2011) suggests private security industry employs between 19.5m and 25.5m people globally, more than the number of police officers.
- Marketisation of policing a timely topic post-Chilcot.
- Iraq legitimised 'PMSC' sector with US spending >£138bn on contractors (FT, 18/3/13).
- In an international context, marketisation has many dimensions ...





## ***Commodification: growth of civilian private security services***

- Expansion due to rising crime, restriction of state capacity, marketisation ...
- US: 1.1m-1.5m
- Canada: 140,000
- Latin America: 1.6m
- South Africa: 400,000
- Nigeria: 100,000
- India: 7m
- UK: 365,000
- Europe: 2m



– Includes cross-border services especially in CIT.

(Estimates from Nalla and Wakefield, 2014; CoESS, 2013)



## ***Globalisation: corporate expansion***

- Guarding companies range from small, locally oriented firms through to the global operators.
- Largest is Anglo-Danish firm G4S, employing 623,000 people in 110 countries.
- Swedish firm Securitas employs 330,000 people in 53 countries, more concentrated in US and Europe.
- Both expanded globally through acquisition and merger.
- Differing operating standards in different countries.
- Larger firms increasingly 'one stop shops' for security products and services, G4S expanding into developing/hazardous markets with 2008 purchase of Armorgroup.



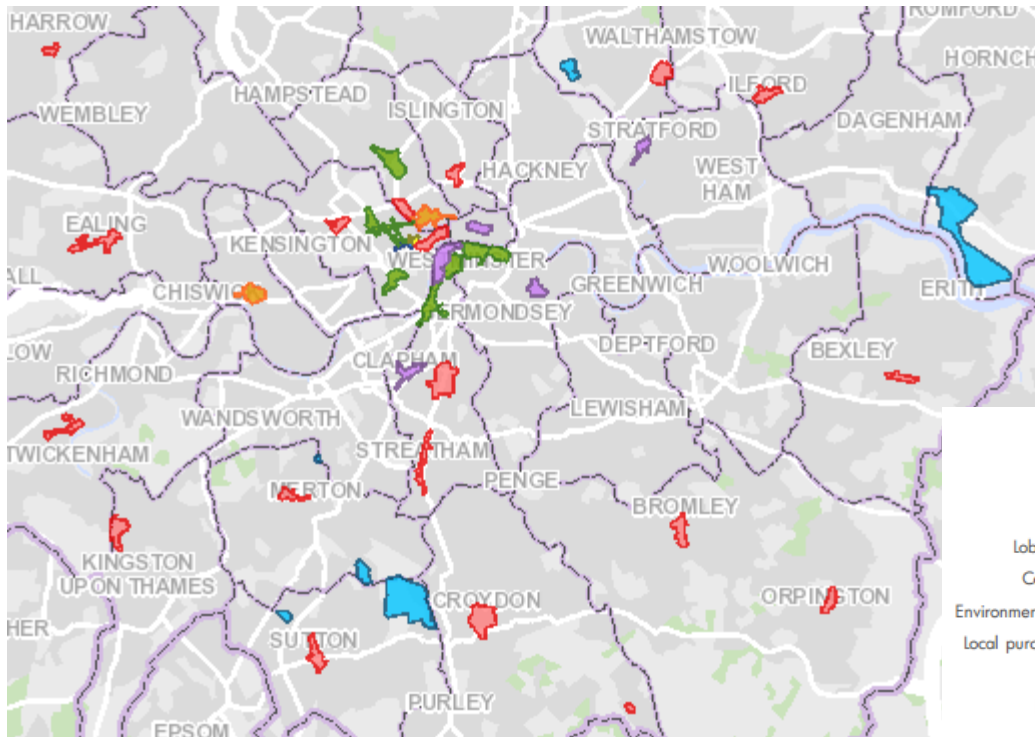
# ***Colonisation: Business Improvement Districts (BID) and Town Centre Management (TCM)***



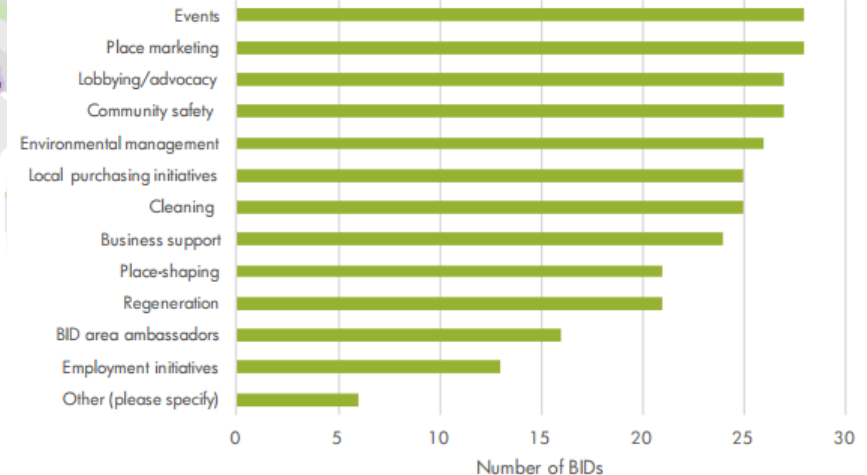
- Many forms of colonisation: private space - mass private property, maritime space, cyberspace ...
- BIDs first emerged in Canadian and US towns and cities in 1970s.
- Spread to New Zealand, South Africa and Europe (incl. Albania, Germany, Ireland, Serbia and UK).
- TCM developed in England in the late 1980s, and is mirrored by TCM-like schemes in Australia and continental Europe (incl. France, Italy, Sweden and Spain).
- Both models based on partnerships between municipalities and business communities to boost trading environment, e.g. through additional street cleaning, landscaping, CCTV and security patrols.



# London *BIDs* ([www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk))



**Fig.7: BID Activity Areas**





## ***Mechanisation: increasingly technology-based***

- Security industry constantly developing more sophisticated and cost effective technologies.
- US market for security products and systems estimated to increase 6.3% annually to \$19.9 billion in 2016, with underlying shift from manned to automated security (Freedonia, 2012).
- Policing in general has become increasingly technology-intensive, while private security has always had advantage in access to technological resources (Shearing and Stenning, 1983, 2012).
- Smart cities/internet of things technologies/sensors/data analytics ...





## ***Diversification: security in 'complex' environments***

- Armed private security now prominent in unstable but strategically important global regions.
- Legitimisation and expansion fuelled by military downsizing: demand for services and supply of personnel.
- Supporting corporate expansion into emerging markets.
- Responsive to emerging threats e.g. 2008-2010 rise in east African piracy.
- Extends to development consultancies, e.g. IMC Worldwide.



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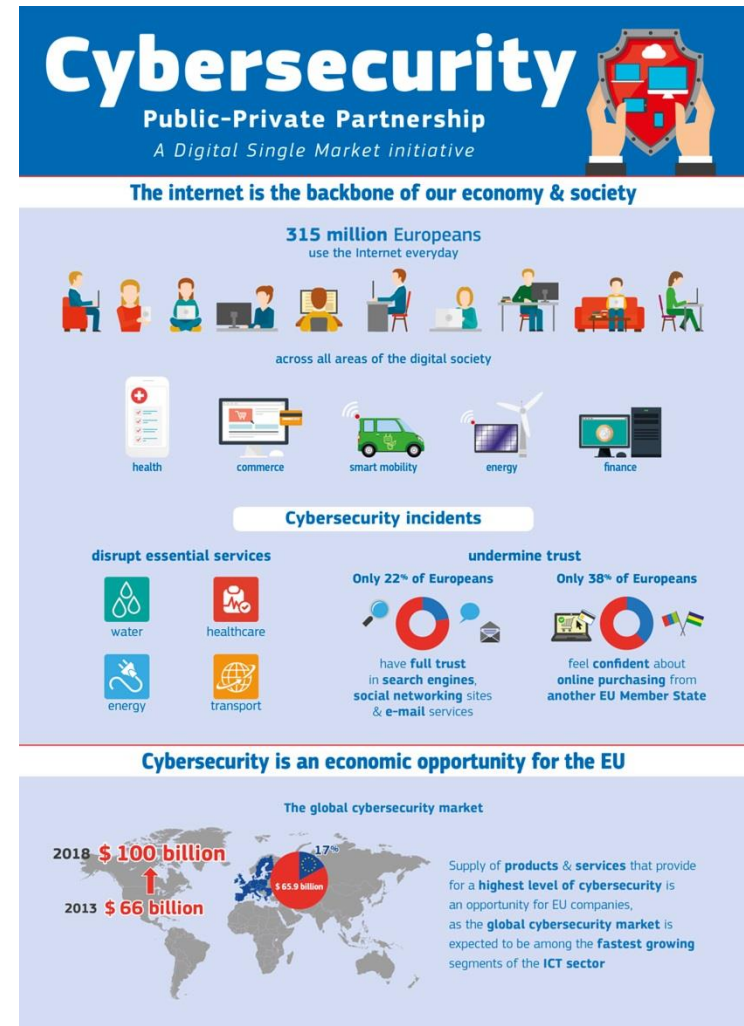
**Control Risks**





# Collaboration: security partnerships

- Project Griffin: devised by the City of London Police in 2004, subsequently adopted throughout UK and internationally in countries incl. US (as NYPD Shield), Australia, South Africa and Canada.
- International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre, established in 1992.
- European Commission Public-Private Partnership (cPPP) on cybersecurity (5/7/16).
- Critical infrastructure protection: most critical infrastructure is privately controlled.





## ***Conclusion***

- Private security now makes significant contribution globally, often fulfilling significant gaps.
- Can be a strong partner to the state.
- Can sometimes supply an equal/better service to the state at a lower cost.
- Globally (as with police), standards vary considerably: at worst, criminal infiltration, little or no training, abuses of authority and lack of professionalism.
- Public and private policing both rapidly evolving against backdrop of significant and ongoing political and economic change. Challenge for academia is to adapt at the same pace ...



## ***References***

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