

France – Naval or Cultural Giant?

Throughout the period observed, France remained Europe’s second most powerful country, although the two strongest European countries, to name Germany and France, simultaneously were the biggest losers on the continent. Moreover, Italy and Germany outperformed France in the period mentioned, gaining more global power. This can equally be pointed out with regard to France’s slight loss in global Power Share (-0.39). Despite the fact that France still lies above the average, this is rather due to a general loss of power

Power Shift 2016-2020



share of the G19 (the average loss for the G19 countries encompassed 1.78% of their Power Share), than to France performing above the ordinary.

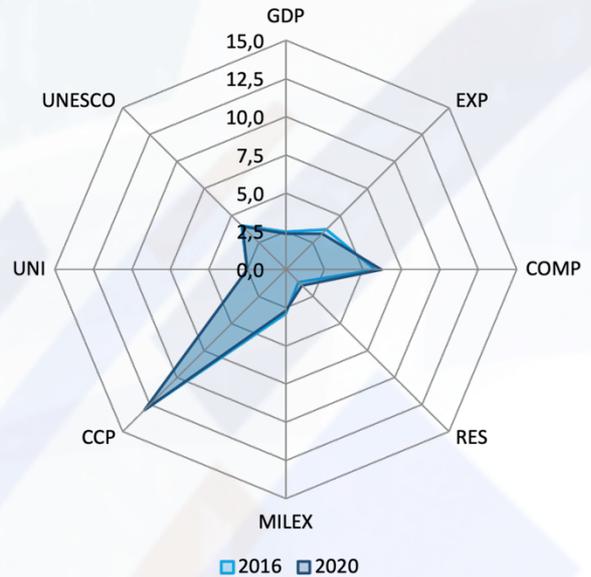
Taking a closer look at the indicators, France

especially stands out as a naval power, controlling 16 chokepoints, ranking second behind the US. Furthermore, France is third in holding most of UNESCO World Heritages after China and Italy. Between 2016 and 2020, three new sites were registered: Taputapuatea in 2017, Chaîne des Puy-Limagne in 2018 and French Austral Lands and Seas in 2019.

Regarding the dimension of Top Companies, France can be numbered among the five countries, which alone managed to increase their number of companies listed in the Fortune 500. Since 21 Chinese companies were newly listed in the Fortune 500, France can be ranked second regarding the absolute gain in this dimension with a growth from 29 to 31 companies. In addition, Paris considerably gained with respect to its Total Reserves, counting an increase of Market Change of 0.29, ranking 7th.

France mainly lost power in the following dimensions: GDP (-0.12), Exports (-0.40) and its Military Spending (-0,18). Although showing a marginal increase in the sector of GDP (PPP) and Military Spending, the country remained below the average increase of the G19 countries, which, on the whole, led to a slight decrease in Country Share in each category.

France Market Share



Overall, France accomplished to maintain its position as the second most powerful European country; however, a slight tendency to an ongoing power decline can be observed.

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