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## INTRODUCTION

With the presentation of this new issue of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies Magazine, we are taking a step further toward the consolidation of this publication in the field of Security and Defense, which, since it was first published in December of 2015, has never failed its readers by missing publication every six months. It is a publication that aspires to become a considerable influence for analysts, professors, and scholars of these subjects in Spain and Latin America. At the same time, like all Spanish-English bilingual publications, it intends to open its path in the complex and vast world of publications with scientific impact in the Anglo-Saxon world.

In this issue, there has been a renewal of members in the Editorial Board as well as its Editorial Staff. We wish to thank the outgoing collaborators and welcome the new ones. On the other hand, furthering the continuous improvement process to the quality of this magazine, in this issue we have included a list of the evaluators who have cooperated in selecting the articles published in the last three issues. Thanks to the evaluation system by the method of “double blind peer review”, we ensure a standard criteria of objectivity, and we guarantee that the “reviewers” have been selected keeping in mind their proven competence in scientific methodology and their solid knowledge of the subjects or contents of the documents. The goal of this publication is to attain an optimal interest in impact rates.

Several matters are discussed in this issue. In the first article, a new method for the analysis of geopolitical regions (MARG is its acronym in Spanish: *Método para el Análisis de Regiones Geopolíticas*) is introduced, as it has been successfully experienced by the author in the Advanced School for the Armed Forces in Spain. The method allows intervention with civil capabilities and, if necessary, military capabilities to restore regional stability. This is an important issue, if we consider the rapid evolution of risks and threats.

An evolutionary outlook of defense is dealt with in the second article, from the point of view of developmental economics, which affects the progress of efficient military capabilities to address external threats within a framework of uncertainty and limited rationality on the part of the actors.

In the third article, Professor Catalina Ruiz-Rico Ruiz approaches the challenge that the Armed Forces face given the current method of social responsibility being developed within the context of human rights, the environment, equality, and efficiency, among other aspects. According to the work of this author, Social Responsibility is verified in foreign operations, and permanent operations within the national territory with actions that go beyond the compliance with existing legislation.

Beatriz Gutiérrez López approaches the doctrine of the *muqawama* (resistance): the case of Hamas. For this author, “the doctrine of the muqawama” or resistance, contributes with elements characteristic of the insurgent system; these may constitute valuable elements for analysis when studying other Islamist insurgent phenomena.

In his article, Daniel Rajmil discusses deterrence and nuclear deterrence in the Middle East, and the convenience of updating the theory of deterrence after the agreements with Iran to limit its nuclear program. The author considers it an opportunity to look to the future and put forward initiatives for the control of weapons, and the processes of regional disarmament.

Pedro Fatjó Gómez and Guillem Colom Piella present an analysis of French defense policy since the Cold War to our days, drawn from the *White Papers* that France has prepared to adapt its national defense policy and military organization to the changing national and international state of affairs.

Javier Pastor Sánchez discusses an evaluation of the procedures to estimate the cost of the life cycle of a *System of Weapons* in Spain. The aim of this work is to explain the procedure to estimate the costs of the life cycle (CCV is its acronym in Spanish – *costes del ciclo de vida*) of the programs in Spain, comparing it with organizations such as NATO. The work is based on historical information, techniques, parameters, and breakdown structures in the estimates carried out by the CCV.

Closing the issue are a report and a review that include the analysis of and critical comments to recently published monographs about ISIS, the pending utopias, and Latin American democracy.

We hope that the contents included in this new issue are of interest to the readers, and contribute to arousing interest in Security and Defense issues.