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## INTRODUCTION TO ISSUE 11 OF THE IEEE JOURNAL

We are pleased to present issue no. 11 of the *Journal of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies*. Launched in 2012, the journal showcases scientific articles that address various aspects of security and is striving to win the recognition of the international scientific community. Accordingly, all of the articles featured adhere to the strictest quality standards and are published in Spanish and English.

The article which opens this issue of the journal, entitled “An Analysis of the Plurality of Political Islam. The Cases of Tunisia, Turkey and Morocco” by Elena Labrado, looks at the cases of three Islamic political parties: the Ennahda party in Tunisia, the Justice and Development Party in Morocco and the Justice and Development Party in Turkey, before concluding that political Islam is willing to play by the rules of the political system in each country, not just in order to survive, but to achieve its political goals. Elena Labrado reaches the conclusion that, despite the parties’ obvious ideological similarities, in practice, all three have adopted different political solutions.

In the second article, researchers José Balsa and Dieter Fritsch from the University of Stuttgart (Germany) put forward an interesting and original security proposal entitled “3D Modelling of historic urban centres and its applicability to the fields of security and defence”. In the article, they propose a proprietary methodology for the generation of three-dimensional digital models that can be integrated into virtual environments for security purposes. Their study provides a novel and unique insight into this methodology and its security applications for historical urban centres.

Iran has returned to the international scene, if indeed it ever left it, and Pedro Luis Rubio Terés, a researcher at the Department of Political Science of the Higher School of Economics (Moscow), analyses Iran’s political elite and internal power structures. In his article, “The Iranian elites as perceived from their society and the main geopolitical actors”, Rubio Terés explores the ideas behind the Islamic Revolution, the nature of the Iranian state and the rationale nurturing the ruling class, before concluding that Persian-Azeri society struggles between political agency and an acute alienation from the religious authorities.

The fourth article, entitled “Fundamental lessons in the work of Mahan: from geographical determinism to the commercial spirit”, was written by Professor Josep

Baqués of the University of Barcelona. In his paper, Baqués examines Alfred Mahan's contributions to naval strategy, sets out the criteria of this North American geostrategist and explores the writer's work from a political perspective.

"Analysis of the situation of peace and stability in Liberia fourteen years after the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)" is the title of the fifth article, by Carlos Alberto Carravilla Gregorio. Drawing on personal and direct experience, Carravilla Gregorio analyses the process and development of this 14-year-long international mission in which the UNMIL's military and police components have been able to maintain peace and stability by acting as a deterrent. The author concludes that Liberia's chances of achieving lasting peace will largely depend on how conflicts in neighbouring countries evolve.

For the sixth article, Alexandra Ainz Galende, professor of sociology at the University of Almería, carried out a sociological analysis of the discourse of Muslim women in Spain who wear the *niqab*. With the title: "A closer study of the discourse of *niqabi women* in Spain", Ainz Galende presents the findings of a study designed to explore the meaning the interviewees attach to this garment. It can be deduced from the study that there is growing support in social media for the *niqab* and that Muslim women are increasingly being encouraged to wear it.

To close this issue, we feature a review of Juan Avilés' latest book, *Historia del terrorismo yihadista: de al Qaeda al Daesh*. In her review, Carmen López Alonso, a professor at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid, analyses and describes the content and interesting points raised in the book.

Emilio Sánchez de Rojas reviews *Minorías y fronteras en el Mediterráneo Ampliado*, the work coordinated by Maria Dolores Algorta Weber, which brings together the contributions of writers in the MESIMA group (Minorities, States and International Security in the Larger Mediterranean).

Throughout the journal's almost six-year history, we have been fortunate to have the assistance of an editorial committee of renowned academics and professionals to help us in our relentless pursuit to continuously improve the quality of scientific processes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their assistance, and also the numerous expert researchers who generously devote their time to evaluating and assisting with the journal. We hope they will continue to accompany us on our journey towards excellence.

*Many thanks to all of you.*

*Miguel Ángel Ballesteros*