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INTRODUCTION

The subject of security and defence has largely been overlooked in scientific journals in Spain. And judging by the data from Latindex, the same is the case in South America, considering that of the 22,732 journals registered in this directory, 2,874 come under the social sciences category, with only 12 of these being in the security and defence section, three of which are Spanish.

Failure to foresee crises and conflicts such as those currently taking place in the Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and the African countries of Mali and the Central African Republic demonstrate day after day the need to afford more attention to international security.

Because new conflicts are primarily asymmetrical, it is more difficult to predict their emergence and significance. Furthermore, crises are unfolding in settings in which other powers are making their regional leadership in the economic, political and even military arena felt.

An analysis of these conflicts and crises calls for a geopolitical approach that includes numerous interrelated variables in an open and ever-changing system, thus highlighting the importance of the cross-cutting and scientific nature of studies in security and defence. It was for this reason that the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) launched a biannual scientific journal on security and defence in 2012 to promote rigorous analysis and scientific methodology. To this end, we were determined to strictly adhere to the 36 standards recommended by Latindex.

Furthermore, the IEEE journal aims to gain recognition from the scientific community in the Spanish and English-speaking worlds by publishing articles in both

¹ LATINDEX is a comprehensive inventory of scientific journals from Iberoamerican countries. <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/index.html?opcion=3&subT=&porReg=95> (consultado el 8-6-2014)

Spanish and English.

As demonstrated by the 35 articles published to date, the journal places special emphasis on a cross-cutting approach to security. The topics that have been most frequently addressed are: defence economics (five), the foreign and common security policy of the European Union (four), international insurgency and terrorism (three) and new defence and security technologies (three).

Nevertheless, along with the military world, the people who have shown most interest in these topics are university teaching staff. Of the 35 articles published to date, five were written by senior professors, 14 by tenured professors, 11 by university lecturers and 8 by persons working in think tanks or research institutes. Furthermore, external evaluators are PhDs who work primarily at the university level.

This, the third issue of the IEEE journal deals with highly interesting topics.

Firstly, Miguel Ángel Franco García, auditor commander and doctor of law, analyses the trend towards the integration of civil and military capabilities in the maritime field, a process that led to the approval of the Maritime Security Strategy in Spain and paved the way for the EU, which is currently undertaking the same process.

The second article, by Daniel Rey Moral, lieutenant auditor and doctor of law, aims to demonstrate how Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security led to the adoption of a gender approach in Spanish legislation and particularly in the Organic Law on the Disciplinary Regime of the Armed Forces.

In the third article, Katarína Svitková, a research assistant at the International Security Studies Group and postgraduate student at Charles University in Prague, aims to demonstrate that there is a growing interest in research into security in cities in response to contemporary threats. In her paper, she discusses two approaches which are, in her opinion, the increasing militarisation of urban spaces and the elements and functions most vulnerable to natural forces and human action.

In the fourth article, Ángel Gómez de Ágreda addresses the consequences of climate change for the Arctic and beyond the Polar Circle. This study called for a dynamic analysis of all the factors involved, beyond a sequential view of local scenarios, and advocates a more spherical view of the Earth, rather than the obvious cylindrical view that overlooks the Polar Regions because they are impassable.

In the fifth article, professor of International Public Law and International Relations at the University of Murcia, Cesáreo Gutiérrez Espada, deals with the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect concept, which requires a revision of the right of veto in the Security Council.

Also on the subject of the responsibility to protect, lieutenant auditor and doctor of law, Marina de Luengo, argues that to achieve this protection, states will have to introduce national laws against war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in

order to prevent judicial or criminal impunity.

Finally, Georgina Higuera, a journalist with extensive experience in China, analyses dissent and human rights in China following the Tiananmenin Square Massacre on 4 June 1989 after two months of student protests which marked a turning point in relations between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the population. Chinese dissidents within and outside the country's borders are fuelled by the Tiananmen Square incident, in which they continue to play an important role.

