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Launch of issue 17 of the Journal

We present a very interesting new issue of the **Revista del Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos**. It covers:

The physiognomy of conflict, in such a globalised and interconnected world, has incorporated new aspects and procedures. The traditional kinetic confrontation has now been joined by tensions of a commercial, economic, technological and also, inevitably, geopolitical nature. Several articles in this issue address tensions of various kinds that could lead, if they have not already done so, to armed confrontation. The struggle in the China Seas between China and its neighbours, as well as with the United States and other Western powers, is addressed in “**Past, Present and Future Geopolitics in the South China Sea**” and “**Potential US-China War: Rethinking the Thucydides Trap**”. The first analyses the actors involved, the evolution of the disputes and the possible consequences of China’s latest moves in the near future. In the second, we return to this space characterised by its high level of potential conflict. The 21st century is set to be Asia’s century, as three of the four major global economic powers are concentrated here: China, Japan and India.

“**Tactical Nuclear Weapons: History, State of Matter, Armaments, and Strategies of the Major Nuclear States**” provides insights into nuclear proliferation policy through a historical overview of the major powers in the system up to the present day. Two other articles delve into local conflicts with obvious global repercussions. Since the fall of the Shah of Persia, Saudi Arabia and Iran have maintained a clear rivalry whose origins may lie in their opposing visions of Islam, and this is the focus of “**The Struggle for Regional Hegemony: The Strategic Rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran in the Last Decade**”. “**Russia and Turkey in Nagorno-Karabakh, between militarisation and diplomacy**” seeks to analyse the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as part of Russia’s foreign strategy and its relationship with Turkey. On the other hand, the high number of people who left Tunisia after the Arab Spring to join a jihadist organisation in Syria or Iraq is striking; “**Radical-**

isation processes in Tunisia after the Arab Spring” seeks an explanation for this phenomenon.

The subject matter of “**Security culture in Spain, a pending subject in education**” is very timely, as it lucidly expresses the need to respond to the lack of an education policy for our young people that imbues them with the necessary knowledge for their training in security and defence culture, an indispensable element for guaranteeing and defending our freedom. In this line of knowledge of the Armed Forces by Spanish society, “**Communicative risk management in the Military Emergency Unit. Strategy and structure**”, an article based on interviews conducted at the UME itself, and doctrinal documentation of the Unit, combined with a literature review on risk communication, proves that public communication is a valuable tool for managing crises. With “**Price audit of obtaining a weapons systems**” we will get to know the Cost Evaluation Group (CEG), a specialised technical service of the General State Administration, and specifically of the Ministry of Defence, for planning and deciding on investments, especially those related to armaments and material.

Finally, two regional integration initiatives as different as the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union are analysed. “**A Different and Distant Europe**” bases its analysis on the parameters of individual and collective awareness of and adherence to the European project, in order to draw conclusions about its appropriateness and feasibility. The research carried out in “**The Eurasian Economic Union: Institutional Structure, Competencies and External Relations**” adequately dissects and synthesises both the institutional structure of the EEU (not to be confused with the Eurasian Economic Community) and its international relevance, examining the problems faced by its most important organs.

We round off this issue with several book reviews of books that will undoubtedly be of interest to you. Without further ado, I invite you to enjoy this 17th issue of the **Revista del Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos**.