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## PRESENTATION

**W**ith the first half of the year almost at the end, we are fulfilling our promise to our readers by presenting the second issue of the Journal of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (issue number one, corresponding to June 2013, which follows on from issue 0 from last December).

In the first place, I would like to express, on behalf of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, my sincere thanks for the great welcome that was shown to issue 0 of the journal. I extend my gratitude to all the members of the Publishing and Editing Councils for having agreed to work together and form part of this exciting project.

Issue 0 of the journal, both in its Spanish version and in its English translation, has been among the most-read and most-downloaded documents of all those that have been published over these months on the web page of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies. We hope that the present number will again satisfy the expectations that our journal has created and will receive at least the same welcome that the presentation in society of this publication met with.

On the other hand, with this number, a platform has been started up for the automatic management of the contents of the journal, based on OJS (Open Journals System), a free software tool developed specifically to manage publications of a scientific nature.

In order to facilitate access for our readers to all the functions and possibilities of this platform and so that its operation is optimal, from now on the Journal of the Spa-

nish Institute for Strategic Studies can be downloaded from the Institute's own web page [www.ieee.es](http://www.ieee.es) or from url: <http://revista.ieee.es>

This new tool will make it possible to read each one of the articles that make up the current issue and also to consult the previously published issues. It is possible to carry out searches, by author or using words included in the text of the articles; in this way, it will be easy for our readers to find the content that they want to have a look at.

In the sections with general information on the publication, there is information on a range of aspects of interest such as the members on the councils of the journal, the instructions for authors and the copyright policies.

On the home page, there is also a link for access to the content management platform. All those authors who would like to send us an original article for possible publication in future issues can register, include the title of the article and upload the complete text together with a short summary and the key words. In this way, it will be possible to find out what situation their work is in, whether it is pending review by external peers or is immersed in the editing and laying out process.

Once the article has been received and it has been verified that the subject it deals with is in line with those that the journal tackles and that it fulfils the quality standards, it will be sent for evaluation by two reviewers who have previously agreed to work with IEEE, who will prepare their report on the same platform.

With the adoption of the OJS system, we have taken a further step towards the professionalization of the process of management of the journal, which will make it easier to fulfil the requirements set down by the main databases for scientific publications at a national and international level.

In the same way, with the purpose of making it easier to have direct contact with the staff of the IEEE responsible for managing this publication, we have put at the disposal of our readers, and of all those who are interested in making contact with the management, the following e-mail address: [revistaieee@oc.mde.es](mailto:revistaieee@oc.mde.es)

We encourage everybody to send us their suggestions or comments, which will help us to make our journal better.

As regards the content of the present issue, we continue with our aim of reflecting, by means of a deep, academic analysis, the most relevant aspects of the security and defence panorama at the global level.

In this regard, we consider that the eight articles which make up the issue corresponding to the first half of 2013 fulfil that objective, as well as our idea that there should be different approaches and theoretical points of view, a range of disciplines, areas of knowledge or methodological approaches provided that they are defended with rigour.

One of the articles that we present is a quantitative analysis of the incidents involving the pirates who operate in the waters of the Indian Ocean. From this survey,

according to the authors, Fernando Ibáñez and Miguel Ángel Esteban, it is possible to outline and identify the most-used tactics in their attacks, contributing to the neutralisation of this significant risk to international security.

In another article, Luis de la Corte offers his findings on the convergence which, in his judgement, is taking place between the criminal activity of international organised crime and the main organisations of jihadist terrorism. In the words of the author, we are facing a worrying tendency which has been observable over the last few years and requires greater attention to the phenomenon on the part of governments and multi-lateral organisations.

For his part, Miguel Guindo writes about the different types of relationship between an insurgent movement and the civil population in a conflict where the rebels intend to obtain the resources which will guarantee their own survival. Over and above the value that the natural resources desired by the insurgents may have, Guindo puts forward other aspects for consideration, in particular, factors of culture or identity, society or politics.

The use of unmanned drones precisely to combat armed insurgent movements and terrorist organisations is analysed by Javier Jordán in his article. This is a more and more widely-used weapon which also generates intense debates from the perspective of International Law. Jordán draws attention to the use of drones in the conflict in Yemen, which have not had such media repercussions as those deployed in Pakistan. The author reaches the conclusion that although the Al Qaeda faction on the Arabian Peninsula has been eroded, the unmanned drones are not being as effective as intended in the counter-insurgency struggle.

A range of aspects of new information technologies are dealt with in two articles in this issue: the first, written by Manuel Torres Soriano, presents “cyber-optimism” and “cyber-pessimism” as the two main options in the analysis of the role that the internet is playing in social conflicts and political change. The question that is dealt with is whether the “network of networks” is a force for democracy and the opening up of authoritarian regimes, or whether, on the other hand, it is a new instrument in the service of those who are not willing to allow the existence of dissident opinions.

Meanwhile, the second, written by Yaiza Rubio and Félix Brezo, centres its attention on the possible risk that maps disseminated over the internet, such as the celebrated Google Earth, might add to the vulnerability of national security systems. A motion to restrict internet access to areas that are sensitive on national security grounds is being planned in parliament.

Finally, the economic and legal aspects of security and defence area also present in this issue.

Antonio Fonfría contributes a highly-detailed study of public spending on defence with a few suggestions so that their inclusion in state budgets is more self-explanatory and to allow a better understanding on the part of the public. Fonfría considers that an effort should be made to adapt budget techniques to the reality of defence costs.

Finally, Pilar Pozo carries out a detailed analysis of some problems of interpretation regarding the legal regime on the use of force in peacekeeping operations. Latent threats and the preventive use of the right to self-defence, together with the realisation by the United Nations of how necessary it is to protect the most vulnerable members of the population in situations of armed conflict, are some of the main questions tackled by this author in her work.

We trust that the journal will be of interest to you and that the matters dealt with on these pages will contribute to academic discussion and debate, going more deeply into research and analysis on security and defence.