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Launch of issue 18 of the Journal

Welcome, once again, to this 18th issue of the Spanish Institute of Strategic Studies (IEEE) Journal. On this occasion, we are back for another six-month period with fourteen articles of great interest and on a variety of subjects, but always related, in one way or another, to Spanish Security and Defence. Five of the proposed articles have been grouped together in a **Technology Special**, which we hope you will enjoy.

The IEEE has been paying special attention to the evolution of the situation in the sister countries of the Ibero-American community. The article '**Results vs Capabilities? Theoretical Perspectives on Security Planning in South America**' by Jorge Mauro Vega explores the process of national security policy planning in South America, combining theoretical and methodological perspectives with empirical case study analysis: Chile and Peru represent dissimilar conceptions of the scope and organisation of the security and defence sector.

Starting with the concept of 'Defence planning', a process inherent to Defence policy, Juan Carlos Castilla Barea addresses in '**Little Red Riding Hood asks about defence planning. Some answers and the NATO case**' scenario-based planning scenarios for dealing with future risk. Of the four types of planning, the 'NATO Defence Planning Process' is given as an example of the Portfolio type, and guidelines are provided on shaping future scenarios based on the '*NATO Warfighting Capstone Concept*'.

It is inevitable to return, time and again, to the cross-border scourge of terrorism, and we do so with up to four articles on this occasion. María Fernanda Noboa González offers a methodological reflection on the mutation of the National Liberation Army's tactical actions in Colombia with her proposal '**A reversal of security relations. New scenarios of tension and trajectories: the case of the ELN**'. The aim is to understand the new trajectories of this *guerrilla* group for the next decade, especially on the borders with Ecuador and Venezuela, and to conclude that new analytical approaches must be proposed to understand this problem more comprehensively.

'Description and analysis of a terrorist group: Boko Haram. Rubén Fuster Leal's **'The (inter)national risks produced by a breakable state and a terrorist threat'** analyses Boko Haram, a group linked to Nigeria, focusing on the context in which it was born, as well as a description of its origins, ideology, structure, leadership, attacks perpetrated and victims. This group's insertion into Salafist jihadist terrorism, and its ongoing dissemination, has the potential to further destabilise the fragile Western Sahel region.

Leonardo Salvador Sánchez Peláez, **'COSI, a decade devoted to the European Union's internal security policy'**, examines the ten years of COSI's existence during which it has been strengthening and expanding its responsibilities (judicial and police cooperation, implementation of the strategic lines of internal security, the fight against organised crime, issues related to the fight against terrorism, etc.). Its ambition, adaptability, and flexibility have ensured it a relevant position in the field of EU internal security.

The article **'Spanish Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism'** is a choral contribution by Jacobo Salvador Micó Faus, Sergio Almaraz Sánchez and Pino Penilla Marquínez. International terrorism has become a priority threat and the international community, with the combined efforts of States and International Security and Defence Organisations, has adopted multiple strategic and operational measures to combat it. Spain maintains an active commitment to this fight by deploying its Armed Forces, both in its participation in international missions and on national territory, coordinated in this case with the FCSE.

'Psychopathography of leadership', by Pilar Bardera Mora, presents an analysis of the incidence of mental health problems in the exercise of leadership: personality disorders or circumstances associated with stress. The author refers to the 'Hubris syndrome', related to the narcissistic personality in leaders, which is associated with ineffective, or malign, performance of power. Another possible problem is that of depression, the negative impact of which on leadership is not fully accepted, as some leaders affected by depression can nevertheless be very effective.

The revived proliferation of nuclear weapons makes Ignacio Losada Sanjuán's proposal, **'The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the Light of IHL: An Advancement in Nuclear Disarmament?'**. The author reflects on this type of weapon, one of the main concerns of the authors of IHL, taking as a reference the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which raises numerous questions that will be answered in the body of the article.

Russia's assertiveness in its relations with the EU and in its interventions in the immediate regional environment justifies the relevance of Sofiya Hapchyn's article, **'Russia's strategic personality and its influence on the relationship with the West'**. The author analyses the main Russian and Western schools of thought, contrasting them in order to explain, from the neoclassical Realism approach, Moscow's perception and behaviour in relation to Western countries at different stages in the global arena.

In the **Technology Special** you will find several proposals on the decisive importance of new technologies, their application in the field of security and defence, as well as the struggle between the various powers for leadership in these areas. Miguel Ivorra Ruiz, '**A2/AD Capabilities. The awakening of the West in the face of the Dragon's nest**' analyses the A2/AD concept, both its capabilities and the challenges it represents, complemented by a historical overview of operational concepts, strategic orientation and possible responses. As a case study, it catalogues China's A2/AD from strategic, doctrinal and operational perspectives, all through the lens of aerospace power employment.

Carmen Ruiz Arellano studies the Spanish Defence industry (considering the years 2012 and 2016) in '**Financial analysis of the Spanish Defence industry**', in which an economic-financial approach to this industry is made in order to deepen the knowledge of its structure, conduct and results, and thus show the changes produced with the exit of the economic crisis. Ramón Alarcón Sánchez returns to the subject of terrorism with '**Technological modernity and terrorist propaganda: proposal of a discursive analysis to face the messages of terrorism in the digital age**' and analyses the phenomenon of terrorism from the perspective of technological modernity. This analysis is considered essential for the media and the public, as the internet enables the globalisation of terrorist messages.

The debate on the scope of the concept of technological sovereignty, as well as its implications, has gained momentum in the EU to ensure the concept of 'strategic autonomy', which is key to strengthening the bloc's position in the world. However, it has not been translated into defined objectives. Gonzalo León and Aureliano da Ponte, in their article '**Technological sovereignty. Smart power and political instability**' frames this debate in the conditions of current geopolitical instability and discusses the rationality of the notion of 'smart power' as a strategic option for the EU. On this basis, China's presence in Africa and its potential impact on European strategic autonomy is analysed.

We complete this issue with a review of Sagrario Morán Blanco's book '**Fight against drug trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean. The work of the Organization of the American States (OAS)**'. From different analytical perspectives, the book immerses us in the complex reality of the American continent regarding the fight against drug trafficking.

We hope that this semester's offerings will be to your liking and as useful as possible.

