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This 22nd issue of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies Magazine presents eleven articles. These works deal with a wide variety of subjects and, in any case, are of obvious transcendence in a global scenario clearly characterised by uncertainty and competition between the two great powers. A collision course that drags all other actors, State and non-State, into increasing conflict. In this regard, Sara Yildiz Bravo has provided a critical analysis of the challenge facing the EU as it seeks to define a credible and viable model of global presence, beyond its acknowledged role as a trading power. With the focus on the “Strategic Compass” document, the article entitled: “The strategic autonomy of the European Union: reality or utopia?”

Without abandoning the global approach, in “Special Operations Forces in the Era of the Return of Great Power Competition” Adrián López Fleming describes a very specific case of States resorting to the use of forces of this nature to promote their interests in such a tense environment, in line with the realist theory of International Relations.

The incorporation of cyberspace into the possible domains of geopolitical confrontation, without excluding the recourse to the use of force, exponentially increases the options for interaction between the various actors, especially in the so-called grey zone. For this reason, we include in this issue the article by Pablo Cañete Blanco entitled “Use of grey zone strategies in urban environments”, with the emphasis on urban scenarios, which are becoming so significant with the high number of megacities in all continents. The cognitive sphere also finds in cyberspace the best way of approaching the manipulation of societies, which are particularly vulnerable to the avalanche of information and disinformation that circulates in this virtual space. This issue is addressed by Mónica Lupiáñez Lupiáñez in “How to deal with a cognitive attack: Prototype for detecting propaganda and manipulation in psychological operations targeting civilians during a conflict”. Ramón Alarcón

Sánchez, for his part, presents a valuable study, “Disinformation, fake news and post-truth: a comparative study of general trends, research articles in academic journals on security and journalistic headlines”, in which he delves into the meaning of three terms that are not always well-defined, such as disinformation, fake news and post-truth.

We do not abandon the grey zone and new areas of conflict to study the concept of hybrid warfare. This is a relatively new concept, which causes confusion and is not always understood in the same way, depending on who is using it. This is a good reason for Manuel Luna Alcoba to delve into the various interpretations of the concept in his article “Morphological box of the concept of “hybrid warfare””.

The maritime field, more traditional than the aforementioned cyberspace and cognitive fields, is also covered extensively in this issue of the Magazine. In “Spain looks to the North: The Arctic, Naval Operations and Climate Change”, Gonzalo Vázquez Orbaiceta and Augusto Conte de los Ríos discuss the consequences that the progressive melting of this Ocean, in turn a consequence of climate change, has for the region. Most notably, the end of the exceptionality that kept these waters out of major international tensions. Spain, for its part, joins the general tendency of coastal States to demand the extension of their maritime areas of interest, as Celia Fernández Calvo studies in “The extension of the Spanish continental shelf”. In the same vein, Ángel Llorente Fernández de la Reguera looks in depth at “Canary Islands waters and the Law of the Sea”, with an eminently legal approach and a special focus on greater environmental protection. And from the sister country of Peru, Roberto Vizcardo Benavides discusses the major investments in infrastructures that aim to make the country the most important hub in the subcontinent, with the object of facilitating trade between Asia and South America in the best possible way. His article: “The strategic value of hub Peru in South America”.

Finally, Juan Carlos Fernández Cela presents a “Geopolitical analysis in scenarios of financial contagion: the reconstruction of spatial chains through their Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)”, in which he explores the potential of spatial data in the international financial network from a geopolitical perspective. This issue of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies Magazine also includes reviews of the books “Historia naval de la Guerra Civil, 1936-1939” and “Modi’s India: Hindu nationalism and the rise of ethnic democracy”.

We hope that this magazine will be of interest to all those who, in one way or another, pay attention to the Security and Defence of Spain in a global environment as turbulent as the one we find ourselves to have to live with.