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We are pleased to welcome you to this new issue of *Articles Journal 25*, corresponding to the first half of 2025. In this edition, we continue with our firm mission to offer rigorous and up-to-date analysis on the most relevant issues that define the complex geopolitical, strategic and technological landscape of the 21st century. Through contributions from leading experts, we explore everything from global geopolitical tensions, such as NATO's role in the face of isolationism and multipolarity, to the most disruptive technological advances, such as artificial intelligence and quantum cryptography, which promise to redefine the rules of the game in international security. This semester, we also offer a critical reflection on historical issues, such as relations between Russia and the West, as well as a detailed study of the dynamics of power in cognitive warfare and nuclear deterrence.

As always, our goal is to provide our readers with a deep and multidimensional understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing global actors in an increasingly interconnected and dynamic world. We invite you to explore each of these articles, which will undoubtedly contribute to academic reflection and debate on issues of great importance. We also extend our warmest invitation for you to continue accompanying us on this intellectual journey, as *Artículos Revista 25* reaffirms its position as a benchmark in the dissemination of specialised, high-quality knowledge.

In *Chapter 1*, Magí Castelltort Claramunt introduces us to an in-depth analysis of NATO's role on the 75th anniversary of its founding, placing it in a postmodern geopolitical scenario marked by three major features: regulatory fragmentation, social demilitarisation and the West's identity crisis. The author points out that, in this context, the Atlantic Alliance faces three strategic challenges of enormous significance. The first is *US neo-isolationism*, resulting from both its energy autonomy and its internal priorities, which are pushing it to turn inwards. The second challenge

is *Russian neo-imperialism*, defined as a postmodern project that seeks to recover areas of influence without the need for direct territorial occupation, but rather through strategic, political and even hybrid pressure. The third is *multipolarity*, a narrative that erodes the structural hegemony of the United States and presents a new, more competitive and decentralised international scenario. Faced with this triple challenge, Castellort Claramunt argues that NATO must rethink and transform itself into a platform for democratic resilience. Moreover, he presents it as an indirect guarantor of the Western welfare state: by sharing the defensive burden among its members, it frees up resources for social investment and thereby reinforces the democratic legitimacy of collective security in the 21st century.

In the following chapter, *Antonio Legaz* focuses his attention on a classic aspect of war: the element of surprise, which is undergoing a process of change in the context of the 21st century, dominated by information and disinformation. The author argues that the revolution in information gathering and analysis—with surveillance technologies, big data exploitation and the growing use of artificial intelligence—has drastically reduced strategic uncertainty. This limits the ability of actors to carry out surprise attacks in the traditional sense. However, he warns that this “end of surprise” is not absolute, as a new challenge has emerged: *disinformation*. The proliferation of false information, data manipulation and information poisoning have given rise to a veritable “digital fog of war,” in which information overload and strategic noise generate dangerous false certainties. The work of Legaz does not only trace this transformation of the concept of surprise, but also highlights how intelligence analysis becomes the key to filtering information chaos and turning data into useful knowledge. In this way, he underlines the vital importance of distinguishing between truthful information and strategic manipulation in order to avoid critical vulnerabilities in contemporary conflicts.

In his part, *Arturo García-Vaquero y Pradal* takes us on a historical journey through attempts to fit Russia into Europe since the end of the Cold War. The author explains how, since 1989, the dynamics of power redistribution have pitted Moscow’s aspirations against the strategic decisions of the West. While the United States and NATO led the way in security matters, the European Union did so in the commercial and economic spheres. The result of this process was a failure: what began as cooperation ended in rupture and confrontation. The chapter reviews the different stages of Russian-Western relations up to 2022, highlighting both Russian initiatives, conditioned by its perception of insecurity, and Western responses, characterised by a stance that the author describes as exclusionary and clumsy. The conclusion is that mutual distrust and Western misunderstanding have prevailed in a scenario in which the West has acted according to its own interests within international norms, while Russia, still only partially recovered, has failed to escape its own strategic culture.

In the same framework of reflection on Russia, *Francisco Javier Quiñones de la Iglesia* offers a different contribution, focusing on the development of international relations as a discipline in this country. The author recalls that the discipline became academically established after the Second World War, closely linked to US hegemony, which allowed the consolidation of the realist paradigm in the West. In contrast,

in the Soviet Union, the discipline was subject to official Marxist ideology, which reduced analytical approaches to the strategic interests of the state. Only when Soviet specialists were able to access Western literature did they realise that their approaches were close to capitalist structural realism. Quiñones thus traces a path from the Soviet era to the present day, highlighting how the realist approach has prevailed absolutely in Russia, as it offers an ideal theoretical framework for addressing practical foreign policy issues. The conclusion is clear: the primacy of national interest, as a central category of realism, continues to shape Russia's international praxis.

The next contribution, by *Guillermo Pulido Pulido*, takes us into innovative territory: that of “multi-unstable deterrence”. The author explains that the proliferation of long-range precision munitions has fundamentally altered the classic concepts of deterrence and strategic stability. First, there is the *levelling effect of precision*, whereby even contenders that are very unequal in size or potential can inflict massive damage on each other thanks to guided weapons. Secondly, this proliferation leads to the emergence of a new type of military conflict, *salvo warfare*, characterised by massive exchanges of precision projectiles. Thirdly, the damage caused by high-precision conventional munitions generates an unprecedented strategic phenomenon: *multi-unstable deterrence*, in which the balance is not maintained in a stable manner, but is fragmented into multiple unstable equilibria. All of this constitutes what Pulido calls the third nuclear era, marked by instability and escalation, in contrast to the stability of the first nuclear era during the Cold War.

Next, *Emma Memmi* takes us to the Mediterranean, particularly to the case of Tunisia, as a key transit area for migration to Europe following the Arab Spring. Her article examines how Tunisian migration flows have created a real security dilemma for the foreign policy of the European Union and its southern-border Member States. Memmi explains that the multipolar context and the anarchic structure of the international system have conditioned European migration policy, leading to a process of *externalisation of borders* towards North African countries. In this context, Tunisia has become a key point of departure and transit on the Central Mediterranean routes. The author also highlights the need to move beyond the Eurocentric approach of current debates and to recognise the power asymmetries between Europe and its southern neighbours. Her work is a critical reflection on how to address this security dilemma in a regional context of growing uncertainty.

The journey continues with *Carlos Alegre Agulló*, who analyses the US Marine Corps' *Force Design 2030*. In a world marked by the so-called “era of competition” and disruptive conflicts such as the war in Europe, the Marines have become an example of a bold transformation process aimed at regaining deterrence capabilities against emerging powers such as China. Alegre Agulló examines how this strategic planning process, guided by the US political will to *pivot to Asia*, constitutes a model of coherence and continuity that can serve as a reference for Spain in its own military reform processes.

*Marcos Checa Rubio's* chapter focuses on *cognitive warfare* as a strategic vanguard and proposes a dialectical perspective on strategic thinking. Based on a critique of

the fragmented knowledge of modern science, the author advocates the holistic approach of dialectical materialism as a more effective way of adapting to the current geostrategic environment. Cognitive warfare, he argues, has come to occupy a central place in national security strategies, transcending the military to permeate the social and political spheres. In this sense, cognitive warfare becomes a conscious extension of politics by other means, integrating the military, social and state spheres. Checa concludes that China and Russia have a strategic advantage over the West precisely because they apply this holistic vision, while the United States lags behind with its more fragmented approach.

In another academic field, *Iván Soto Maciá* takes us to the technology sector with a topic of great significance for global security: *quantum key distribution* and its geopolitical impact. The author warns that the emergence of quantum computing will pose one of the greatest challenges to modern cryptography and, with it, to information security in the 21st century. In this emerging field, the position of the major powers is decisive. The United States, explains Soto Maciá, maintains a cautious and sceptical approach, while China has made a decisive commitment to leading the research and deployment of this disruptive technology. The chapter examines the reasons behind these divergent approaches, as well as the main scientific advances achieved to date and the practical implementations currently underway. It also analyses the underlying strategy of the actors involved and how the race for secure communications of the future is becoming a privileged arena for projecting interests and consolidating positions of power in the coming international order.

Next, *Antoni Mestre Gascón and Javier García Rodríguez* focus their analysis on *artificial intelligence (AI) as a geopolitical asset*, with special attention to China's strategy and its global impact. The authors describe how technological development has become a determining factor in 21st-century geopolitical competition, placing China as one of the most influential actors. Through initiatives such as *DeepSeek* and an ambitious national plan that sets the goal of AI leadership by 2030, Beijing seeks to consolidate a strategic advantage in security and defence. The chapter examines three key fronts: the role of AI in cybersecurity and hybrid warfare, the deployment of autonomous systems in military operations, and the regulatory and strategic challenges arising from its global expansion. It also analyses the responses of the United States and the European Union, highlighting the urgent need for international regulatory frameworks to limit the risks of proliferation. Mestre and García Rodríguez conclude that China's technological rise not only reconfigures the global balance of power, but also poses major challenges in terms of security, digital governance and international stability.

In a change of register, *Jorge Alcaraz Pérez-Ros* takes us back to a specific episode in recent military history: the role of British signals intelligence on Argentine naval communications during the Falklands War. Although its strategic relevance was decisive, many questions remain unanswered due to the lack of declassification of official documentation. The chapter examines the most likely means of obtaining information, intelligence activity prior to the Argentine landing and, above all, the context of Anglo-American cooperation on intelligence, which provides a robust

explanatory framework for understanding how the interception operations unfolded. This way, Alcaraz Pérez-Ros does not only provide keys to assessing the real scope of these interceptions, but also invites us to re-evaluate the factors that conditioned both the outcome and the development of the conflict.

The work concludes with a review that broadens the perspective to the cross-cutting challenges of our time: *Medio ambiente, seguridad y salud: grandes retos del derecho del siglo XXI* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2024). In its more than 300 pages, this collective work explores the links between environmental challenges, security issues and implications for public health in a globalised context. The review highlights the multidisciplinary nature of the volume and the need to integrate these dimensions into contemporary strategic and legal debate, emphasising that environmental and health issues are increasingly intertwined with security, forcing us to rethink classic categories of law and international relations.