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We are pleased to present this new issue of the journal, which brings together a series of articles addressing some of the main strategic, technological and geopolitical challenges characterising the current international system. In a context marked by growing uncertainty, volatility, increased conflict and rapid transformation of the international order, rigorous and multidisciplinary analysis is more necessary than ever to understand contemporary security dynamics.

The international system is undergoing a period of profound transition. Tensions between major powers, the resurgence of strategic competition and the proliferation of regional conflicts, some of which threaten to escalate into global implications, are evidence of the growing fragmentation of the global order. At the same time, the multilateral system that emerged after the Second World War is showing clear signs of institutional fatigue. International organisations designed to manage collective security—with the United Nations as a prime example—face a structural deadlock that limits their ability to act in the face of crises. The paralysis of the Security Council in the face of high-intensity conflicts, the growing instrumentalisation of multilateral institutions by the major powers, and the emergence of new regional security architectures reflect a trend towards what some analysts call a process of demultilateralisation of the international order.

At the same time, the strategic agenda has expanded significantly. Conventional conflicts are joined by new dimensions of competition between state and non-state actors: hybrid warfare, cognitive dominance, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and the instrumentalisation of information as a tool of power. This multi-domain environment forces us to rethink the classic categories of international security and demands analytical frameworks capable of integrating the technological, social, economic, and strategic dimensions of contemporary conflicts.

The articles in this issue are set against this backdrop of structural transformation of the international system and address some of the most relevant phenomena in global security today from different perspectives.

The first article, by **Juan de Dios Mesequer González**, analyses the resilience and cyber risks associated with Russia's nuclear command, control and communications (NC₃) system. In an environment characterised by the digitalisation of military systems and the growing sophistication of cyber threats, the author proposes a reproducible methodological model that combines systematic review, conceptual analysis and scenario simulation based on international risk management standards. Drawing on verified open sources from institutions such as RAND, NATO STO and SIPRI, the study examines the technological exposure of the Russian nuclear system and proposes mitigation frameworks based on Zero Trust architectures and cyber resilience audits. The work thus contributes to understanding how military digitalisation influences contemporary strategic stability.

The second article, written by **Luis Ángel Díaz Robredo**, focuses on NATO's strategic communication and its role in the field of information warfare. Drawing on contributions from social and group psychology, the author analyses various intergroup interventions that have proven effective in reducing prejudice and hostility between groups, highlighting their usefulness in strengthening strategic communication capabilities in conflict contexts. The work shows how the cognitive domain has become a central space for strategic competition, where the construction of narratives and the management of perceptions are becoming increasingly valuable in the context of allied operations.

In the field of institutional communication in crisis contexts, **Jonattan Rodríguez Hernández** examines the communication strategy of the Military Emergency Unit (UME) on social network X during the forest fires that affected Spain in the summer of 2025. Using a mixed methodological approach that combines content analysis, engagement study and semantic analysis using data analysis tools, the author shows how the UME's communication focused primarily on the operational response to the emergency. The study also highlights the role of institutional communication on social media in reinforcing the public legitimacy of security institutions.

From a geopolitical perspective, **Andrea García García** analyses India's growing role in the strategic architecture of the Indo-Pacific. The article examines the evolution of Indian foreign policy from the legacy of non-alignment towards a strategy of strategic autonomy, articulated through initiatives such as the *Act East Policy*, the SAGAR doctrine and the strategic concept known as *The India Way*. The study also explores the implications of this rise for the European Union and Spain, highlighting opportunities for cooperation in areas such as connectivity, maritime security, technology and the defence industry.

Instability in the Western Balkans is the subject of **Sebastián Chumbe Checa's** study, which examines the risk of escalation in the region following the formation of opposing military blocs around Serbia and Kosovo. Using theoretical frameworks such as the balance of power, complex interdependence and the notion of a grey zone,

the author analyses the interaction between regional and external actors—including NATO, the European Union and Russia—and assesses the factors that contribute to containing the conflict, such as European mediation, economic interdependence and the presence of international missions such as KFOR and EUFOR Althea.

In the field of international political economy, **Sonia Benito Hernández** and **Rouhollah Iran Shahy** analyse the role of economic Islamism in the political legitimisation of the Iranian regime. Based on the *Velayat-e Faqih* doctrine formulated by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the study examines the tensions between Islamic economics and contemporary approaches in the social sciences. The authors conclude that economic Islamisation in Iran has functioned primarily as an instrument of political legitimisation of theocratic power, generating dynamics that have limited economic pluralism and favoured authoritarian structures.

For their part, **Salvador Berdun Carrión** and **Luis Barragán Márquez** address the phenomenon of jihadist radicalisation in prisons based on an analysis of the case of inmate Rida B. The study examines the particularities of radicalisation within prisons and raises relevant questions about the capacity of prison institutions to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies in high-security contexts.

The issue of training in strategic decision-making is addressed by **Iván Soto Macia**, who analyses the role of wargames as a tool for improving decision-making processes in complex contexts. The article explores how advances in artificial intelligence can transform the design and evaluation of these exercises, as well as the opportunities offered by the growing community of civilian players as a source of collective intelligence and cognitive diversity for strategic analysis.

From an innovative perspective, **Roberto Espinosa Valdés** analyses the phenomenon of the gamification of war in contemporary conflicts. Through a comparative approach that includes the Russian Ukrainian war, jihadist extremism and organised crime in Latin America, the author shows how the logic of video games is being integrated into propaganda, recruitment and mobilisation strategies. The study concludes that these dynamics contribute to trivialising violence and amplifying the transnational dissemination of war narratives, especially among young audiences.

The issue is rounded off with a paper by **Arturo Esteban Ceballos**, dedicated to the analysis of hybrid threats from an innovative methodological perspective. The author proposes a replicable model that combines empirical data analysis, statistical modelling and agent-based simulation to study Turkey's strategic activity in various regional scenarios. Using analytical tools such as Markov chains, negative binomial regressions and SARIMAX models, the study identifies adaptive patterns in the strategic behaviour of actors and provides a useful analytical framework for the development of early warning systems in multi-domain environments.

Finally, this issue includes reviews of three recent works of particular interest to the academic and professional community in the field of security and strategy. First, the book by **Daniel Sansó-Rubert Pascual**, dedicated to the role of intelligence services in contemporary democracies. Secondly, the work by **Rafael García Pérez**, which analyses the geopolitics of the global submarine cable network as critical infrastructure

for international security. Finally, the work by **Basil Germond**, which focuses on the evolution of naval power in the strategic context of the postmodern world.

With this set of contributions, the journal offers a plural and multidisciplinary overview of some of the most relevant debates in contemporary international security. At a time when strategic uncertainty seems to be becoming the new normal in the international system, rigorous analysis and academic debate remain indispensable tools for understanding and addressing the challenges of the 21st century.