

Miguel Ángel Ballesteros Martín

Brigadier Director of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies

INTRODUCTION TO ISSUE 8 OF THE IEEE JOURNAL

We present the 8th issue of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies Magazine, continuing our policy of uniting quality and rigor with the publication of articles of interest to the public and fully topical.

The first article in this issue was written by Chema Suarez Serrano, PhD in International Public Law, and a journalist for Radio Televisión Andalucía (Andalusian Radio and Television). In his article, he describes how the so-called war journalism is changing, just as contemporary armed conflicts do. The communication technologies make available an unparalleled dissemination and influence on the public opinion as well as on international organizations, thus having a direct consequence: the concurrent increase of threats against the safety of those who inform.

Luis Miguel Sordo Estella, Infantry Colonel, with a degree in Psychology and a PhD in International Peace and Security by the UNED (Spanish National University of Distance Education), analyzes, in the second article, the psychology of terrorism. The violent conduct of a terrorist does not reflect a mental disorder per se, but is rather a consequence of a process of socialization that affects the mind and the behavior. A terrorist is not a psychopath, and the psychological consequences that terror from these groups cause to their victims, and to the population that suffer them, has long persistence in most cases.

The third article addresses a proposal of conceptual analysis of the security and defense culture from the standpoint of Political Science. The author is Alberto Bueno, doctoral candidate at the University of Granada, and member of the Study Group on International Security. He studies the significant implications and consequences of defining that concept, also considering the meaning of the terms *defense culture*, *security and defense culture*, and *security culture*, also contributing theoretical and conceptual suggestions for a better and more efficient development of this public policy.

Carlos Javier Frías Sánchez, Artillery Lieutenant Colonel, who holds the diploma for Military Staff, considers the subject of conventional deterrence in the fourth article. The regulation designed for National Security – both Spanish and foreign security – frequently mentions deterrence. In spite of it, that mention is rarely followed by a coherent linkage of that concept; even much less of specific measures designed to reach deterrence. The author presents a classical theory of deterrence, but applied in a way that may be attainable through conventional means, the most adequate to the Spanish and European reality.

The fifth article is the work of Doctor Beatriz Vázquez Rodríguez, Associate Professor at the University of Oviedo. She discusses Spain's priority on the Responsibility to Protect, as non-permanent member of the Security Council for the biennium 2015-2016. Our country is a member of the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect, and member State of the Global Network of focal points for the Responsibility to Protect. This commitment is also projected on the inclusion of this concept in the documents of Spain's foreign action strategy.

In the last article, Professor Carlos Barrachina Lisón at the University of Quintana Roo (Mexico), a PhD in Political Science and Sociology, addresses the Mexican path toward the transformation of the National System of Public Security: budgetary effort for Federal States and Municipalities (2008-2015). The author considers the complicated scenario that Mexico faced in 2006 when it initiated the integral reform of the National System of Public Security and the government's double challenge: recovering the ungovernable areas from the infiltration of organized crime, and fully restructuring the National Security System. The article illustrates that the argument that Mexico does not invest enough resources on public security bears no relation to reality.

This document shows the permanent concern of the editors of this magazine and its Editorial Board to include articles of interest to Latin America.

To sum up, this issue of the magazine presents contents of scientific rigor and of great interest due to its topicality and outstanding importance for world security.