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INTRODUCTION TO ISSUE 7 OF THE IEEE JOURNAL

We are pleased to present the latest issue of the Journal of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, which, in keeping with our policy of prioritising the quality and rigour of its articles, also garners interest because it tackles topical issues.

The first article concerns the role of the Security Council vis-à-vis nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The subject matter is of great interest, and even more so if we account for the concern surrounding the possibility of nuclear material ending up in the hands of the so-called Islamic State. Let us remember that Spain, as a non-permanent member of the aforementioned council, is leading the way when it comes to compliance with Resolution 1540, approved in 2004. Equally disquieting is the military nuclearisation being carried out by North Korea as part of its strategy of regional confrontation, which may unleash a dangerous escalation of warmongering. On the other hand, the international community has been able to reach an agreement with Iran about a halt to and control of its nuclear enrichment programme.

The work of classic authors, such as Clausewitz, always serves as a reference point that nevertheless needs to be constantly reread in order to verify the validity of their theories in current conflicts. The second article thus analyses whether or not Clausewitz's theory of war is a valid one for fighting insurgency. At the present time, when most conflicts are of an asymmetric nature on hybrid fronts and conventional clashes are minimal and short-lived, it is appropriate to undertake scientific analysis on the potential application of the Prussian theorist within the analysis of new conflicts.

Over the past decade, the Spanish armed forces have undertaken one of the biggest reforms to military training with a view to adapting it to the European education system. The third article discusses a series of reflections and proposals in order to improve the training afforded to military commanders.

The peace talks on the Colombian conflict held in Havana with the FARC and President Santos' government will make way for a complex post-conflict phase. Professor Sonia Alda analyses the different options for the inevitable transformation of the Colombian security forces.

As part of the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, etc., both NATO and the EU have opted for strategies based on a holistic approach. NATO has coined the term 'comprehensive approach' to describe the concept, which has nonetheless not managed to be fully implemented within the work of these international organisations since, in scenarios such as Afghanistan, every country has developed the model that they deemed most appropriate, despite this being done within the military alliance's ISAF operation. Our fifth article deals with this comprehensive approach as part of states' national reconstruction work and legitimate security.

Last but not least, everybody will be aware of the increasing concern in Europe as a result of the attacks committed by returning Daesh fighters on 13 November in Paris and on 22 March in Brussels. These European jihadis who went off to fight under the black flag of Daesh return to their countries of origin with combat experience and with a further radicalisation of their views, thereby making them potentially dangerous individuals. Our sixth and last article addresses this risk and undertakes a comparative analysis of the potential danger posed by the foreign fighters returning to the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Belgium.

All in all, this edition of the journal showcases topics that have been researched with scientific rigour and which are of great interest given their topical nature and their importance to global security.