

Editorial: strategic intelligence as process and product

The journal “Perspectives in Intelligence” reaches its 14th volume (number 23), offering the academic and scientific community a selection of thirteen articles on intelligence and counterintelligence, economics, history, philosophy, management, finance and technological development. Several papers are highlighted for their use of statistical techniques and tools for quantitative and qualitative analysis, typical of data analytics, such as machine learning, artificial intelligence and text mining. The research papers in this issue of the journal are the product par excellence of strategic intelligence, since, as José Gabriel Paz argues, strategic intelligence is analytical, provides results and findings based on the scientific method and basically has two main areas: National strategic intelligence and military strategic intelligence. National strategic intelligence is processed and specialised knowledge used in political-strategic decision-making, while military strategic intelligence studies the military power of those considered enemies or threats; it is the specialised knowledge that drives military strategy (UDGV, 2018). Expanding on the concept, the Spanish government also argues that strategic intelligence is the knowledge that civilians and the military should possess for the formulation of defence policies, plans for conducting operations at the strategic level and business competitiveness (Díaz Fernández, 2017, p.167). All of this is applicable due to the speed at which threats mutate, and it is from the scientific and strategic intelligence community that innovative perspectives must be built from which public or private entities anticipate the courses of action to be taken in a specific situation (Piraeque P. and Osorio I, 2021, p. 37).

In the “Intelligence and Counterintelligence” section, five interdisciplinary articles are presented, as the holistic nature of intelligence demands. Firstly, Velasco Peña and Osorio Isaza address an issue of strategic intelligence, customs and of interest to the national treasury when they demonstrate through time series how “undervaluation occurs in the importation of mobile phones in Colombia”. Valentina Ardila and Oswaldo Mozo analyse “cyberthreats with the capacity to affect the information security of the Colombian National Army”, taking the period from January 2019 to June 2020 as the time period. The academic conceptualisation of the term Strategic Intelligence and its application in decision making in Colombia is the work carried out by Viviana C.

Gutiérrez and Laura Arciniegas, in which these researchers integrate and specify strategic intelligence according to the needs, scenarios and tools that concur in the Colombian territory. Pico Rodríguez and Agreda Rudenko go on to present an epistemic evolution of “the impacts of the eradication of illicit crops in Colombia: illegality, population and environment”. Finally, the paper “Water strategy and geopolitics in Latin America: a Strategic Intelligence perspective”, by Natalia Chaparro and Ana María Leguizamón, analyses regional and domestic tensions generated by the availability and management of water in Latin America.

The “Economics” section presents an unpublished work that applies a multiple regression model, in which the worsening of the conflict from 2014 to 2021 is determined; its authors, Andrea Mateus, Dagoberto Bermúdez and Heivar Y. Rodríguez entitled this research as “Multivariate index of measurement of the Colombian internal conflict”. Now, with respect to “History and Philosophy”, the critical analysis of Sierra P., Gómez P., González D., Gachetá R., and Torres U. is presented in the article: “Approach to the Victims’ Law based on the multidimensional peace model”. Next, “Leadership and the inclusion of women in the Colombian Armed Forces: an approach to the roles and benefits of gender inclusion in the National Army” aims, from the conceptual nexus of gender-military, to delve into the evolution of the role of women in the Armed Forces; its author, Rafael Luna, visualises theoretical and practical aspects of gender inclusion within the Armed Forces. Patriotism and conscription are dealt with in two conceptual works. Palma C., Martín and Martínez C. present “the notion of patriotism as a social imaginary present within military collectives and the need for its incorporation as a military doctrine”, while Pablo Iregui Acosta’s “Biopolitics, youth and the army in South American countries: an analysis of conscription as an institution based on political philosophy” analyses conscription as a current institution within the military apparatus based on a review of the academic literature.

In the area of “Human Talent Management”, with phenomenological design, the work “Guidelines for Inclusive Education in the Army Intelligence School” is a research in which the guidelines for inclusive education in the Army Intelligence School are designed, through a detailed review of existing policies and needs; its authors are Nelly L. Hernández, Javier Ramírez and Ángela Rodríguez. The last area, “Technology and Development”, presents a prototype for spectrum monitors and a security system for military units with metal detectors. The first is entitled “Study on the development of a prototype for radio-electronic spectrum monitoring using SDR” (Torres G. et al.). The second, “Feasibility study of a security system using metal detectors for military units of the National Army” proposes a design for a perimeter security system for military units of the National Army, providing the possibility of detecting a threat in time and thus neutralising it to avoid operational failure (Rojas G. et al.).

We hope that all these research papers will be a reference tool that will provide readers

with inputs to generate indicators and warnings; determine ends, means, ways and risks; establish threat capabilities; and identify weaknesses and opportunities for companies through intelligence on customers, suppliers and partners.

Referencias

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