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## **Editorial: The symbiotic nature of Intelligence to meet the challenges of the contemporary world**

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*“To know with precision the fords and gorges of the geography.  
Offer guides that can be trusted. Question the curate and the letter carrier.  
Quickly establish a good understanding with the population. Send spies.  
Intercepting public and private letters... In short, being able to answer  
any question from the commanding general when he is put in charge of the Army.”*

*Napoleón Bonaparte*

Since the creation of the Perspectives in Intelligence Journal in 2009 as an interdisciplinary means of dissemination of knowledge and research products conducted by the College of Intelligence and Counterintelligence “BG. Ricardo Charry Solano” (ESICI) together with other national and international institutions, it has sought to continue with the academic legacy of generating not only scientific production with high quality standards but also to become a reference tool for decision makers.

For this motive, although the publications have been oriented to an epistemological area of knowledge in which Intelligence and Security and Defense are integrated, new

topics of study have also been included in a transversal manner, on which the journal has been progressively articulated to the point of adding publications that frame the current state of discussion topics, debates and problems that concern economy, history, philosophy, administration, technological development, etc. So, an interest arises in offering the academic public a compilation of scientific products that contribute to the holistic understanding of the transformations that afflict the contemporary world and, above all, that allow to explore from a differential perspective the complex glocal reality.

This journal is a reflection of the way in which ESICI has worked tirelessly in its internal processes, this is because it continues to grow in the face of the guidelines established by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia, which through the National Bibliographic Index-IBN (Publindex) determine the classification of scientific journals. In this trajectory, medium and long term goals have been established to take the editorial process towards increasingly rigorous indexing standards, thus achieving compliance with the requirements demanded by Publindex, while advancing in the visibility and recognition of international indexing and abstracting systems, among them: Latindex (Directory and Catalog 2.0), MIAR, FLACSO (LatinREV), EuroPub, LivRe, ROAD and Dimensions, which have been accompanied by the enabling of tools such as PORTICO, Crossref, DORA and COPE.

As it is, the journal has managed to become an international academic reference in the debate and transmission of knowledge on Strategic Intelligence, through unpublished publications that have been able to reach America, Europe and Asia through a wide diversity of study topics. The work shared with the academic world has allowed to generate and build ties to consolidate an expanded Intelligence Community, one capable of integrating different visions of domestic and international phenomena in order to adapt to new uncertain environments, while incorporating Intelligence as a planning tool that seeks to know the whys and wherefores, emerging threats and risks, contextual constraints and suitable courses of action for decision makers to act in contexts of high uncertainty (Pirateque, Ramirez & Ulloa, 2023, p. 60).

This edition of Perspectives in Intelligence Journal presents to the academic community a critical approach to the phenomena, trends and problems that arise continuously in the world, and on which new horizons of understanding and interdisciplinary analysis must be generated. The journal has focused on promoting spaces for scientific dialogue on topics of interest for Strategic Intelligence at domestic and systemic level, which raise innovative approaches to the glocal contexts of the postmodern world.

This way, an increasingly hyperconnected world denotes an immeasurable complexity where the only constant is change, which forces Strategic Intelligence studies, research products and scholars of the discipline to adopt disruptive visions that complement the classical schemes of thought. According to Sherman Kent, Intelligence

plays a fundamental role by becoming the “knowledge that our men, civilian and military, who occupy high positions, must possess to safeguard the national welfare” (Kent, 1949, p.2), which in other words would translate into the ability to provide political, military or business decision makers with different courses of action to act in the face of any moment of uncertainty.

Thus, the challenges facing the present and the challenges that have been presenting themselves in terms of security and defense within the international system have highlighted at the academic-scientific level that, although high-intensity wars, the polarization of political-economic systems, cultural and identity crises and the threats of the use of weapons of mass destruction that had been relegated to phenomena of study of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries at present, are taken up again through the integration of securitized analytical frameworks, both classical and critical (Buzan, 1991; Krause & Williams, 2018; Mehta & Wibben, 2019). The mutations in the international system and the post-Wesphalian model have realized that the phenomena of study impacting States and their strategic interests involve an understanding of international security and defense and the use of Intelligence for decision making in highly volatile contexts.

Accordingly, the Intelligence Community and the Academic Community have found it necessary to restructure their strategies and methodologies in order to understand the environments, actors and dynamics surrounding old threats and emerging risks that may affect the stability and strategic interests of States. This situation evidences the symbiotic nature of both communities, based on an imminent need for innovation and creativity to solve problems that afflict state and non-state actors in a post-modern world.

Therefore, taking into account the disruptive dynamics of the current scenario that demand a more comprehensive analysis of the reality of the world, this journal focuses on establishing an intellectual heritage emanating from the areas of interest of Intelligence, without losing sight of the search for answers to questions on political, economic, social, military and security fields that are still in constant evolution (Taureck, 2006). In this regard, we could bring up the statement made by Régis Debray (1967), who stated that:

*“We are never completely contemporary with our present. History advances masked: it enters the stage with the mask of the preceding scene, we no longer recognize anything in the piece. Every time the curtain rises, we have to pull the threads of the plot anew. The fault, of course, is not that of history but of our gaze, loaded with memories and learned images, we see the past superimposed on the present, even if that present is a revolution”* (p. 19).

This statement shows that the phenomena under study are increasingly gaseous in their characteristics, objectives and possible lethality. A perspective that highlights the need to understand that the concepts of the past only allow explaining a piece of the

present, which makes it necessary to generate new theoretical and reflective frameworks that in an integral way bring academics and scholars closer to increasingly accurate approximations of the globalized world (Piratque & Osorio, 2021, p. 16). The above, with the purpose of rethinking the objectives, strategies and actions to mitigate today's threats and tomorrow's emerging risks. In the words of Greene (2006), the aim is "(...) not to execute a brilliant plan that proceeds in steps; it is to put yourself in situations where you have more options than the enemy" (Greene, 2006, p. 127).

The present edition of the Journal is accompanied by eleven academic articles that make up Volume 15 (number 24), which is publicly available to the national and international scientific community. The first part of the journal begins with the section on Intelligence and Counterintelligence, presenting three interdisciplinary articles. First, the complexity behind the theoretical construct behind the concept of terrorism is addressed, largely due to the complexities in its conceptualization and volatility of the term over time, which has contributed to generate a vast conversation around the integrating elements and common areas of understanding about it.

Subsequently, Jairo Cuadros and Javier Ramírez make an approach to the role of the Colombian National Army in the environmental conflict, taking between the time periods of 2010 to date, portraying that in the context of an internal conflict, environmental issues also suffer the negative externalities that arise from the war scenarios. From another perspective, Laura Arciniegas and Leidy Arcila address "the role of the National Liberation Army in the domains of earth, cyberspace and cognitive in the Colombian armed conflict scenario", portraying the elements of innovation and strategic, tactical and technical adaptation that have been implemented throughout the internal conflict by illegal actors.

The Economics section presents a research work led by Juan Camilo Martínez and Diana Meneses, who make an approach on the "Democratic regime in Colombia versus economic trends in Latin America since 2002: the case of Venezuela and Brazil", giving as central conclusion the influence taken by the processes of deinstitutionalization of the party system in Colombia, and the advances in economic matters in the International System. Likewise, Viviana del Pilar Ardila establishes the "Bolivia's geoeconomic challenges and challenges for lithium exploitation", arguing the geopolitical and geoeconomic influence that minerals have as a strategic asset for the development of States, without ignoring that their possession implies a series of challenges in social, environmental and technological matters.

In the History and Philosophy section, authors Sergio Andrés Ramírez, Dagoberto Machado and Natalia Gómez highlight in their article "Artillery in war conflicts, a strategic view of the Russian-Ukrainian war confrontation" the reason for its importance for States and its functioning as a mechanism for the projection of firepower in crossfire scenarios. Next, Nixon Vargas develops a publication related to "The influence of the

FARC-EP and the ELN in the Human Dominion since the 60s in Colombia”, in which he defines the way in which armed organizations have sought to influence or control the population in contexts of social upheaval.

On the other side, Angie Vanessa Vargas reflects on “Populism in the 21st century and hegemonic leadership. Case study: Bolivia with Evo Morales”, analyzing the populist strategy as a vehicle for positioning and political-social influence, while the article “The role of women in Afghanistan after the retaking of power by the Taliban 2021-2022”, by Alejandra Cañón, analyzes from an Islamic feminist perspective the situation of women in Afghanistan based on the changes that have been generated in the dynamics of power in the country.

In the Administration and Finance section, Jeison Peña presents an approach to “Cybersecurity, a challenge for the Colombian Military in the digital age”, showing the way in which military institutions must face the threats and computer risks that arise in the cyber domain. Finally, in the Technology and Development section, the authors Diana Gómez, Diego Velosa, Juan Pinto and Julián Guevara present the “Development of an HF antenna leveling system in irregular terrain in Colombia”, which is considered as a technological advance for the realization of Electronic Warfare operations in signals intelligence.

We expect that reading these articles will facilitate the generation of spaces for discussion, discovery and acquisition of new knowledge for the understanding of vital fields for decision making. We want readers to find in the journal a source of consultation and discernment on global issues and critical points of view on contemporary phenomena. Ultimately, a complementary roadmap for the progress of the States and the strengthening of their human talent, through a product of generation of new knowledge that contributes to the Intelligence Community and the Academic Community.

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