

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2023 RISKS, UNCERTAINTY, WAR

Foreword ■ The Evolution of the Situation in Eastern Europe During the Second Year of the Russian-Ukrainian War ■ The US-China relations in 2023: rivalry and moderation ■ Armed Conflicts in the Middle East and Africa – Result of Social Identities’ Political Instrumentalization ■ The world economy under the effect of war and geopolitical tensions ■ The Intensification of Population Movements as a Consequence of Global Permacrisis ■ EU’s Lines of Action and Instruments to Counter Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) in the Context of the War in Ukraine and of Electoral Processes

The current edition of the *Strategic Assessment* is marked, unfortunately, by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and a series of other complex security issues that have characterized the security environment throughout 2023 and the beginning of the current year. Despite the strategic documents indicating a low probability of an armed conflict of such intensity in Europe, the events of February 2022 demonstrated that certain challenges require continued attention by the international community.

In this context, the analysis of the Russo-Ukrainian war and its implications at the political, military, economic, social and informational levels during the past year constitute the central focus of this monograph. Polycrisis is already a constant that affects a diverse range of zones and domains, and implicitly, an increasing number of individuals. This is evident in the context of energy crises, food shortages, economic challenges, humanitarian crises, and climate change. Consequently, the academic approach proposes a multidimensional assessment of relations between major powers, significant transformations and phenomena in various global regions, from Europe to the Middle East and distant Africa and East Asia, and the manner in which these have given rise to or modified certain trends in the international security environment.

We hope that some conclusions from our analysis are useful to policy makers, experts and other interested persons such as: the current

conflict in Ukraine may not reach a definitive conclusion in the immediate future; the transitional power of the US leader towards China is observable, but has slowed in recent years; identity-based differences are frequently exploited politically to create artificial antagonisms; the ongoing armed conflict, coupled with other security issues, have continued to exert a detrimental impact on the global economy; the intensification of migration flows may put European citizens and those of third countries in mutually exclusive groups whose actions may jeopardize liberal democracy and the functioning of the EU; the dissemination of misinformation and propaganda poses a significant threat to the democratic values and security of the EU and its member states.

The new monograph on multidimensional international security assessment reveals that in a world increasingly fragmented by geopolitical tensions, eroded trust, and insecurity, the imperative to prepare for global risks has reached a critical juncture. The return to stability following these persistent shocks will undoubtedly be challenging, yet there is reason for optimism regarding the rebuilding of trust and the enhancement of institutions and societal resilience.