



## EDITOR'S NOTE

The 79<sup>th</sup> edition of our journal, the second in 2021, comprises ten articles which deal with a diverse set of topics, from “17 + 1” Initiative, continuing with the *EU-Turkey relationship*, *US policy issues*, *MENA multilateral conflict*, as well as other subjects of interest in the field of security studies.

The first rubric, *Geopolitics and Geostrategies: Trends and Perspectives*, one can find an analysis on *China's economic diplomacy to Central and Eastern Europe*, which aims to expand regional political influence and its implications for the security of NATO's eastern flank; the article is written by Mr. Tudor Cherhaț, PhD Student in the field of International Relations and European Studies at “Babeș-Bolyai” University.

Under the same heading, we have included an analysis regarding the *EU-Turkey relationship*, which deals with both the advantages that the two actors can obtain from Turkey's accession, but also the tense aspects, the paper being signed by Mr. Romeo Buhai, PhD Student within “Carol I” National Defence University.

The rubric *Dynamics of the Security Environment* encompasses two articles carried out by CDSSS researchers that approach the issue of conflict in MENA in the first half of 2021. Thus, Crăișor-Constantin Ioniță, PhD Researcher, addresses the alarming situation in North Africa and the Sahel region in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, Mirela Atanasiu, PhD Senior Researcher, highlights both the historical sources and the current forms of conflict in Palestine, with an emphasis on recent developments, as well as possible trends in the evolution of the Palestinian issue.

The rubric the *Terrorist threat* brings to your attention the study of Mr. Iulian Dinulescu, PhD, who outlines the attitude of the Christian community in relation to the assault on the US Congress, revealing the result of the manifestation of ultra-religiosity combined with an extremist political ideology; the approach is a continuation of the article written by the same author, published in the previous issue of the journal.

In the second article, Mr. Daniel Șoimaru analyses the main factors that determined Hezbollah making, starting with the historical context of Lebanon in the '80's, emphasizing the relationship between Iran and Hezbollah from the perspective of motivations and interests that decision makers in Tehran have in relation to the growing Iranian influence in the Middle East.

In the section *Defence and Security Concepts*, Mr. Alexandru Lucinescu, PhD, Associate Professor, advances an in-depth analysis of the logical connections between two definitions given to security, one belonging to Arnold Wolfers and the other to Walter Lippmann.

The second paper, co-authored by Mr. Ionuț Cioranu, PhD Student within “Carol I” National Defence University, and Mr. Ion Chiorcea, PhD, Professor affiliated to the “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy, emphasizes that the effective integration of elements which lead to obtaining and maintaining optimal capabilities must represent a synergistic action, in order to increase the effectiveness of military actions.



The fifth rubric, *Intelligence Studies*, comprises an article written by Mr. Daniel Mihai Duțu, in collaboration with Mr. Teodor Badiu, which deals with the role of intelligence services in the US foreign policy, using as a case study the conflict in Afghanistan from 1979-1989.

Also, in the *Military History* column, Mr. Stelian Tampu, External Researcher of African Research Centre of Obudai University in Hungary, has conducted a research on the political-historical backgrounds of the popular movements of the 20th century, such as 1989 GDR refugees.

The current edition also includes the *Book Review* rubric that presents a comprehensive historical account of a peace support operation amidst the Darfur crisis and genocide complemented by the author's János Besenyő personal experience.

In the *Scientific Event* section, one may find matters of interest from the International Seminar with the theme "*Effects of the Pandemic on International Security*", organized online, on May 20, 2021.

For those who read for the first time *Strategic Impact*, it is an open-access peer reviewed journal, edited by the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies and published with the support of "Carol I" National Defence University Publishing House, and, according to the National Council for Titles, Diplomas and Certificates (CNATDCU), the publication is a prestigious scientific journal in the field of military sciences, information and public order.

*Strategic Impact* is being printed in Romanian language for twenty-one years and in English for sixteen years and approaches a complex thematic: political-military topicality; security and military strategy; NATO and EU policies, strategies and actions; geopolitics and geostrategies; information society and intelligence, military history. Readers may find in the pages of the publication analyses, syntheses and evaluations of strategic level, points of view which study the impact of national, regional and global actions dynamics.

Regarding international visibility—the primary objective of the journal—the recognition of the publication's scientific quality is confirmed by its indexing in the international databases CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library, Germany), EBSCO (USA), ProQuest (USA) and, in addition, WorldCat and ROAD ISSN, but also its presence in virtual catalogues of libraries of prestigious institutions abroad, such as NATO and of universities with military profile in Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia etc.

*Strategic Impact* is printed in two distinct editions, both in Romanian and English language. The journal is distributed free of charge in main institutions in the field of security and defence, in the academia and abroad – in Europe, Asia and America.

In the end, we would like to encourage those interested to publish in our journal to prospect and evaluate thoroughly the dynamics of the security environment and, also, we invite the interested students, Master Students and Doctoral Candidates to submit articles for publication in the monthly supplement of the journal, Strategic Colloquium, available on the Internet at <http://cssas.unap.ro/ro/cs.htm>, indexed in the international database CEEOL, Google scholar and ROAD ISSN.

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