

**EDITOR'S NOTE / NOTA EDITORIAL**

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This issue of the journal focuses solely on China and its foreign relations. Professor Gracia Abad has coordinated a collection of studies dealing with this attractive and predominant topic that has caused significant change within the international community.

The journal opens with a study by Professor Robert Sutter. He describes why the United States will maintain its international stature and leadership due to the lack of Chinese capacities and China's unwillingness to challenge US predominance. On the other hand, Professor Wolfgang Deckers believes that the United States, China and the European Union (EU) will dominate international affairs for years to come. Decker points out that with the hybridization of EU-China relations, China will not become a sole hegemonic power, but instead a primary player within a system of regional blocs, sharing power with the US and the EU. According to Professor Deckers, China will join the US and the EU as a "shaper" of the world order, challenging Western influence in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the former Soviet Union with a different model of globalisation. At the same time, Professor Gracia Abad complements this perspective by explaining the so-called Beijing Consensus. In recent years, Chinese development has been based on policies and measures different than those of the global financial institutions and relies on principles far different than those of the Washington Consensus. She believes that if China emerges from the global economic crisis unscathed, the Beijing Consensus will appear as an alternative to the current system based on capitalism and globalization.

Afterwards the journal shifts the focus on China's relations with Russia, the United States and the European Union. Professor Stephen Blank describes the difficulties that Russia faces regarding its Asian-Siberian territories, as well as Russia's troubled relations with its neighbours in Northeast Asia, which could cause possible repercussion in its relations with China. Professor David Garcia describes the United States' strategic stance with China and its impact throughout Asia. Garcia argues that the US views the PRC as a possible threat and, in turn, is attempting to strengthen possible key Asian allies in hope to prevent Chinese hegemony in the region. Professor Yiwei Wang follows this up by explaining that current US-China relations are not good, while China and the UE share a compatible relationship which could possibly result in the construction of a multi-polar international system based on effective multilateralism. Furthermore, China and the US have overlapping geopolitical interests, unlike China and the EU. According to Wang, "Relations between China and the US could not be worse, while China-EU relations could not be better."

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Professors Joern Dosch, Nicolás de Pedro, Alberto Priego and Arvind Kumar describe China's relations with its surrounding neighbors in Northeast and Central Asia, as well as its relations with Pakistan and India. The complexity of these relations reveal the numerous problems and issues that China must face within the Asian continent as it attempts to increase its freedom of maneuver and strengthen the economic interdependence throughout the region.

Going beyond China's periphery, Renato Balderrama and Selene Martínez discuss China's relations with Hispanic America. China has become one of the primary economic partners for several countries in the region in recent years, much like it has also increased its influence in Africa. The authors describe the medium-term implications that Chinese policies will have on Hispanic America as the PRC follows a political line that attempts to secure raw materials and natural resources.

This issue of the journal closes with two articles sent to us for publication. In the first article, Professor Irina Pop describes China's strategic energy policy in Central Asia, complementing Nicolás de Pedro's description of China's Central Asian policies. The second article by Ahmed Niyaz describes the impact that terrorism has on the Maldives Islands' tourism sector (the country's main economic sector).

Finally, I would like to personally thank Professor Gracia Abad and all of the professors that have generously contributed to this edition, as well as the UNISCI collaborators that helped in its preparation and revision.