



EDITORIAL NOTE

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This issue of the journal deals with different topics. Without a doubt the main topic for discussion and clarification is the foreign and security policy of Taiwan. This important block of articles has been coordinated by Professor Roberto Ren-rang Chyou, Dean and professor of the College of International Affairs at National Chengchi University (Taiwan). No one could do this coordination better. He knows Taiwan foreign and security policy and also follows the Spanish politics. He was a brilliant PhD student in my doctoral course and I had the opportunity to direct his doctoral thesis.

This publication project was presented for its possible realization two years ago. Finally, an important part of the articles about Taiwan, that are collected in this issue, were discussed in a seminar held in Taipei, at the College of International Affairs of the National Chengchi University, on April 14, 2017, entitled "Taiwan Foreign Policy after 2016 US Presidential election".

The first article reviews the relations in the Taiwan Strait, paying particular attention to the idea of the Chinese community and the hegemonic competition. The author tries to explain the China's foreign projection in the next three decades, foreseeing the formation of a Chinese community, centered on mainland China. This goal, as shown in the article, has important implications and obstacles that go beyond the development of the bilateral relations in the Taiwan Strait.

A second article discusses the security changes taking place in the Taiwan Strait as result of the changes in the U.S. alliance policy where the partners are expanding their roles and responsibilities on regional security. The author argues that the emerging security network in East Asia has unintended consequences. China will expect to meet a stronger deterrent threat, and, under these circumstances, it will become more difficult to mount a coercive threat on Taiwan. The article explains the short- and medium-term consequences and considers fundamental to reassure China concerning intent and actions in the Taiwan Strait.

On Taiwan's economic relations and the diplomatic struggle for maintaining a declining diplomatic recognition, several articles explain the scope and deficiencies of the New Southbound Policy, the economic relations with the European Union and the role of the Latin American states in the maintenance of the international recognition. A final article on Taiwan's economic relations with Mexico is very illustrative of the deep economic integration between China and Taiwan.

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The journal also deals with other topics of outstanding relevance in this new year: Terrorism, European security and post-conflict in Colombia

On terrorism, Professor Rohan Gunartna makes a very interesting assessment of the global terrorist threat that has become decentralized, unpredictable, difficult to detect, and resilient with regenerative capacities. The article explains the trends that in 2018 will likely define the global terrorism landscape.

Another article on terrorism, centred on the Sahel, emphasizes the importance of the names of the terrorists groups. According to the author, the names include historical, cultural, ethnic, territorial and doctrinal references that can be indicative of their strategy.

Regarding the European security, two articles focus on two important questions. The first one on the EU leadership and the role of Germany. The authors explain that, given the fact that the EU project is still at risk, a fragmented Europe allows Russia to gain ground and challenge the European power balance at large. In this scenario, the authors consider that the U.S. will seriously try to avert such a path and even the loss of commitment towards further EU integration. In order to keep Europe united, the U.S. can exploit the Ukraine crisis, compelling Germany towards a European leadership fully committed to the EU integration. The second article deals with the military recruitment model for armed forces, discussing the model most suitable for small states and middle powers in Europe. The Spanish case is discussed. This article is relevant because the issue of European defence and the difficulties in recruitment begins to be put in the foreground in a time of turbulence. The case of France is a good example. Recently, President Macron has reiterated his electoral pledge to return to the one-month conscription for young people, aged 18-21, that was phased out in 2001.

Finally, this issue of the journal analyzes the post-conflict in Colombia and how the narratives on the internal conflict have been transformed within the Army and the Colombian National Police.

Let me add my gratitude to the various authors who unselfishly prepared and wrote the articles for this interesting issue.