



EDITORIAL NOTE/NOTA EDITORIAL

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This issue of the journal analyses various current issues affecting Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as more general topics, such as approaches to emigration in a European context, which are often presented as if they were universally applicable.

With regard to Europe, it contains an initial study of hybrid warfare, which explains how Russia employs populist politicians in Slovakia to disseminate its propaganda narrative. The article focuses on three themes: the justification of the war in Ukraine; the defence of traditional values against a decadent West; and the threat posed by emigration. The authors highlight the contradiction of Russia's policies of using migratory flows as a weapon against European countries.

This theme also emerges to some extent in a second article, which presents the rivalry that exists in cyberspace. The article discusses how various states can take advantage of technological advances by promoting narratives in cyberspace to increase their influence beyond their borders. It also covers the construction of virtual borders and the development of national strategies to exploit this fragmentation.

A third article deals with Afghanistan, a complicated country that is worth studying to gain an understanding of the situation there. It focuses on the work of the United Nations in Afghanistan, examining the organisation's efforts to alleviate poverty and promote humanitarian development, while also defending human rights and the role of women, despite the severe restrictions and rights violations they face. It shows how the UN's objectives and policy of neutrality are limited by neighbouring states that legitimise the Taliban and provide them with resources, thereby undermining the UN's objectives and trivialising international sanctions. Although counterterrorism cooperation is working, the UN's role is being undermined by a lack of coordination between states and the absence of robust mechanisms to ensure compliance with agreements.

The issue of terrorism reappears in the study on Indonesia and the resilience and strength of the Islamic State in this country, which continues to operate through deeply rooted ideological and organizational systems. The rise of intolerance in certain sectors of society, political Islam, and the challenges of deradicalization in Indonesia, as well as social discontent and marginalization, contribute to maintaining this resilience. The article identifies thirteen factors that allow Islamic State networks to endure and advocates for more integrated and preventive counterterrorism strategies that address the underlying ideological, social, and digital frameworks that sustain extremism.

Two other articles focus on key aspects of Kosovo's recent history, offering new insights based on consultations with newly available archival sources. They enable us to gain an understanding of the current state of research from the perspective of Kosovar researchers

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regarding the events leading up to the 1999 Rambouillet Conference, as well as Turkey's policy during the Kosovo War. While these studies have been refined considerably based on reviewers' comments, they do not appear to be definitive. If documentation on the operations of various states' intelligence services in terms of supporting, training and financing the warring factions becomes available at some point, it may be possible to resolve some of the issues that remain unresolved.

Regarding the study on the Sahel, it is an important contribution to our understanding of the evolution of European policies towards the region, as well as their theoretical and practical inconsistencies. The criticism of the strategies designed and implemented is compelling and supports the arguments that we at UNISCI have always made about the shortcomings of European general and regional strategies since their inception.

Three studies on Colombia highlight the challenges of the ' "Paz Total" plan and the activities of various armed groups. The first study explains why the government has found it difficult to engage in dialogue with the Clan del Golfo, given its remarkable expansion, enormous financial resources and lack of recognised political status. The second study addresses the transformation of the ELN following the 2016 demobilisation of the FARC-EP and assesses the implications of these changes. It concludes that the ELN is not yet structurally prepared for "Paz Total" negotiations. The third study outlines the situation in the departments of Nariño, Cauca and Valle del Cauca, where transnational organised crime is being consolidated at regional and local levels by leaders and figures from various organisations and entities in the public and private sectors. These actors find a wide margin of profitability in the illegal economy. The article provides a detailed description of the main criminal activities and highlights that these lawless actors are already challenging the state's monopoly on force, taxation, and the rule of law. The outlook for the improvement of national and regional stability is clearly worrying.

The issue closes with an informative note analyzing and discussing the approaches to the issue of migration presented by various Spanish bishops in the national debate that arose as a result of the approval by the Jumilla City Council a motion on the defense of Spanish customs and traditions against foreign cultural practices. The note highlights various deficiencies in their argumentation.

Finally, a book review section is also included, in addition to all these studies and analyses.

We would like to thank the authors and reviewers for their dedication and efforts in editing and improving the various studies.