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Editorial: Political, social, and economic challenges for national security and defense

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Editorial: Political, social, and economic challenges for national security and defense

Editorial: Desafíos políticos, sociales y económicos para la seguridad y defensa nacionales

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In modern history, states have, to varying degrees, effectively faced multiple political, social, and economic issues. However, the inordinate challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic has generated an unexpected and uncertain scenario, which calls into question public and private preparedness to face a crisis such as the current one.

Diseases are inherent to human evolution. Especially, epidemics and pandemics have played a crucial role in history, the Black Death and leprosy in the Middle Ages; typhoid, diphtheria, and syphilis during the Renaissance; malaria, smallpox, measles, yellow fever, and dengue in the 18th century; cholera and tuberculosis in the 19th century, and, more recently, SARS, influenza A(H1N1), Zika, and COVID-19. We speak of an *epidemic* when an outbreak of a contagious disease affects a country, and a *pandemic* when it spreads and affects a region or, in the present case, the entire planet.

Throughout history, these diseases have been successful in destabilizing robust societies, as well as their governments. The current pandemic seems to be no exception. As a result of past experiences, societies have learned to recover and have adopted new and improved policies to strengthen basic infrastructure and the states' power. However, the vulnerability to market variations persists, as well as the human fragility before a health threat, such as the one posed by this pandemic.

Faced with this, the *Revista Científica General José María Córdova* (Colombian Journal of Military and Strategic Studies) publishes in this issue the results of research that contribute to the formulation of policies and public management amid this new reality and its challenges for the security and defense of nations.

This issue presents ten new articles from various countries in the region. Four articles are from Peru. “The influence of military strength on national sovereignty in international relations” analyzes how a country’s potential attack and defense capacities determine relations between the United States, the European Union, China, Russia, and the Latin American region. For its part, “Maritime awareness or identity? An approach to the relationship of humans with the sea” proposes a different way of approaching human relationships with the sea to generate a maritime identity. The article “A veteran’s retraining program for re-entry into the civilian labor sector” makes a significant proposal in support of retired military personnel re-entering the Peruvian labor market. And “New roles for the armed forces in security. Experiences from Mexico, Colombia, and Peru” presents the causes, advantages, and challenges of the armed forces’ participation in security tasks in these three countries.

Other articles develop from the cooperation between Colombian and foreign researchers. With Mexico, the article “A systemic description of the national model of community surveillance by quadrants in Bogotá” shows that this strategic model of territorial control is viable, effective, and self-transforming. With Brazil, the article “Digital defense training strategy for adolescents: a proposal at the Federal Institute of São Paulo” presents a training strategy to promote information management and security. With Chile, the article “The mutation of the Chilean corporate *habitus* based on two metaphors for female leadership” shows both the advancement and the existing shortcomings in women’s equal access to business leadership.

Lastly, three national studies are published. The article “Geopolitics of rare earths: a strategic natural resource for the multidimensional security of the State” analyzes these resources’ strategic influences in the technological and military sector, which gives them high geopolitical relevance. For its part, “Cybersecurity and cyber defense in Colombia: a model for civil-military relations?” examines the predominance of cyberspace in Colombia and how this issue offers a novel model of civil-military relations. And “The rights of women victims of the Colombian armed conflict” addresses the complex situation of women victims of the conflict and their rights, on which there is still much to be done.

In closing, we are pleased to inform our readers that Scopus-Elsevier has recently accepted the journal for indexing. This is a great recognition of the rigorous and objective editorial processes that result in the quality and relevance of the journal for the scientific community and society as a whole.