

## » Editorial



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In order to tackle current challenges to institutions it is important to analyze a series of emerging threats that could, potentially, defy governability. Recently, national and international security agendas have been transformed to include situations affecting an important number of countries.

Human rights violations, terrorism and transnational organized-crime among other current threats underline the importance of security as a fundamental milestone for social development.

This is why this edition presents six articles on research developed by the SIIA-CEESEDEN-ESDEGUE<sup>1</sup>. These articles aim at contributing to security and defense concerns. Some of the subjects included in the articles are:

The transformations of the international system from a unipolar to a multipolar system as a consequence of the growing economic and strategic importance of Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRIC countries) are analyzed from a global perspective. Simultaneously, the importance of the International Criminal Court's anti-terrorism mechanisms is analyzed in relation to Integral-Mission programs implemented in Afghanistan.

In the Americas, residual violence in Central America and its impact on democratic consolidation in Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua is also studied. In a more regional context the situation of human rights in the Colombian-Ecuador border is analyzed. In Colombia the classification of Emerging Criminal Gangs is presented in relation to the destabilization of national institutions.

The articles included in this edition address current issues that are of great relevance to national stability; this is to say, they treat topics regarding the security and defense of national interests.

In short, the SIIA-CEESEDEN-ESDEGUE is committed to providing reliable information in order to stimulate the debate over Colombia's strategic environment. We hope that the information provided in this edition will drive further analyses on the issues tackled by our researchers.

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<sup>1</sup> Integrated Academic Research of the War College Colombia.