The Cold War has brought about the transformation of security architecture and bipolarity has given way to the domination of the United States and its predominant influence on the universality of international relations. However, international relations theorists are increasingly louder in their views on the emerging multipolarism, which introduces the "players" into the international arena that seriously threaten to shake the dominant position of the United States so far. In such constellation of powers, the (geo)political position of weak and transition states, such as the Republic of Serbia, is largely determined by the interests of the great powers.

This paper deals with the most important security and defense elements that form the geopolitical environment of the Republic of Serbia. Taking into consideration the fact that the National Security Strategy and the Defense Strategy of the Republic of Serbia represent the most significant strategic documents in the field of security and defense of the Republic of Serbia, which, on the basis of the analysis of the geopolitical environment, provide key guidelines for the protection and fulfilment of national interests, as well as the process of adopting new strategic documents in these fields, the paper places a great emphasis on the manner in which some security issues have been addressed in the abovementioned documents. The key security issues that are in the focus of this paper are related to the military neutrality of the Republic of Serbia, European integration, the cooperation of the Republic of Serbia with the great powers through its participation in the special security structures and the issue of Kosovo. In this regard, the objective of this paper is a brief analysis of the relations between the Republic of Serbia and the United States, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China as predominantly external factors in the Western Balkans, and through the prism of the abovementioned security issues.

Key words: Republic of Serbia, geopolitics, great powers, United States, European Union, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China

There is no country in the world, whether small or large, that is exempt from the obligation to consider and evaluate its environment and possible threat of war. On the basis of such threat, small states such as the Republic of Serbia are forced to coordinate its foreign
policy activities with countries that share similar interests. Throughout history, small states have tried to provide their own security through participation in military alliances.

As a military neutral state, Serbia has opted for cooperation with both the NATO alliance and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which makes its position more complex. In such conditions, the question arises whether Serbia should be a member of the NATO or CSTO in order to increase its own security.

This paper does not offer final solutions. It only analyses the advantages and disadvantages of membership in any alliance as the starting point for a comprehensive consideration of all state structures in order to define further procedures and direct foreign policy activities.

Key words: alliance, federation, NATO, CSTO, Republic of Serbia, neutrality

Strategic communication in the function of national security

Miroslav Mitrović

The concept of strategic communication has become the matter of topical interest in social relations nowadays. It is referred to as an activity, a topic of theoretical study or as a result of planning and operation of organizational entities at all levels, from corporations to states and their alliances, with the concept still insufficiently defined. This paper analyses the concept, structure and forms of strategic communication on the basis of a wide variety of scientific and professional literature. The implementation of strategic communication in the function of fulfilling national interests with the review of its role and effect on the defense and security system has been considered. The correlation of strategic communication and hybrid concept of violation of national security has been made.

The paper contributes to defining the concept of strategic communication, as well as the proposal for its modeling and management of public opinion that is in the genesis of the implementation of the communication strategy.

Key words: strategic communication, public opinion, national security

The process of decision-making in crises

Miomir Jasikovac

The main objective of this research is the establishment of teams and the process of decision-making in crises that has to be compatible with the security structures that deal with the mentioned issue both in the Russian Federation and the EU countries, the NATO alliance and other countries in the world, in terms of the engagement of security structures and experts from the civil sector. The basis of this objective is the possibility of establishing mixed teams in the process of decision-making for conduct of operations in crises, which will prevent, deter or permanently destroy or disable the causes and persons responsible for crises.

Key words: operation, security system, Republic of Serbia, security structures, mixed teams, experts from civil sector
Violation of public order and peace as a form of endangering internal security

Stanimir Đukić

The paper deals with forms of endangering internal security: sociopathological forms (criminality, drug addiction, prostitution, alcoholism and gambling) and violation of public order and peace. In addition, violation of public order and peace with a special emphasis on offenses and criminal acts from the Law on Public Order and Peace has been studied more closely and thoroughly. Furthermore, the paper provides a brief analysis of the activities and results achieved by the police in the detection of offenses and criminal acts from the Law on Public Order and Peace in the territory of the Police Department in Novi Sad.

Key words: public order and peace, security, internal security, criminality, drug addiction, prostitution

Criminal law protection of public order and peace in the Republic of Serbia

Dragan Jovašević

Public order and peace, as well as the legal order, represent very important social values that, in addition to the Law on Public Order and Peace, are protected by the Criminal Code. Minor forms of violation or threats to public order and peace, that is endangering tranquility of citizens in smaller scope or of shorter duration, are considered as offenses. Their perpetrators are provided with penalties and protective measures imposed by a misdemeanor court. The most serious forms of violation of public order and peace are criminal acts. Severe prison sentences are pronounced for their perpetrators, especially for various forms of violent behavior. This paper deals with the characteristics of criminal law protection of public order and peace in the Republic of Serbia.

Key words: public order, peace, violation, law, criminal act, responsibility, penalty

Defense management - main functions

Dejan Ž. Nikolić, Mitar Kovač and Vlada M. Mitić

How should the defense system deal with challenges in the present and the future? How should it successfully respond to assigned missions and tasks in the conditions of rising uncertainty due to the dynamic change in the environment in which it operates? How to ensure maximum results by effective allocation of given resources? The objective of this paper is to point out the importance of different, but closely interconnected, almost mutually inseparable main functions of defense management in dealing with the mentioned and other problems that are imposed.

Key words: management, planning, organization, command and control
The impact of foreign fighters on the strategic management of the defense system

Bojan Ž. Kuzmanović, Mitar Kovač and Milan M. Kovačević

In order to respond to challenge, risk or threat, strategic management continuously adjusts the defense system to a changing environment. The phenomenon of foreign fighters has a major impact on the strategic environment, and thus on the defense systems, no matter whether the defense system opposes recruitment, the fight against rebels, or the fight against returnees. Since foreign fighters are not a new phenomenon in the history of conflicts, their engagement in previous conflicts can be used to identify the causes or consequences of this phenomenon. This paper has implemented the strategic management technique called "Tree problem" in the case of the engagement of foreign fighters in the Syrian conflict, and the results, besides the causes and consequences of the engagement of foreign fighters, have indicated the possible solutions to this challenge, risk or threat.

Key words: foreign fighters, defense system, management, strategic management

Development of the managerial competences of officers based on their assessment of the expression of the educational needs and the opinions of the experts on the possibilities of their fulfilment

Jasmina Milošević Stolić and Jan Marček

In this paper, we have tried to determine the possibilities of developing the managerial competences of officers based on the examination of the expressed needs for managerial competences, as well as the expert opinion on the possibilities of developing managerial competences. Consequently, the results of the possibility of developing the managerial competences of officers have been analysed using the modified instrument for the examination of the educational needs called MTDNA (Management Training and Development Needs Analysis) and the revised Questionnaire for the analysis of the duties of the Serbian Armed Forces officers. Data processing, as well as the evaluation of the obtained results, has been done in accordance with the recommendations of the author of the original instrument. Thus, the instrument used in this paper is structured over three five-stage scales (the scale of frequency, importance, and difficulty), which contains 33 items/activities. The task of the respondents was to assess, in relation to these three scales, the extent to which these activities are performed "often", how "important" they are, and to what extent they represent "difficulty" for performing professional duties.

In order to examine the results of the research more comprehensively, the possibilities of developing the managerial competences of the officers, apart from examining the needs for managerial competences that are necessary when performing professional military duties on the whole sample, the research of these possibilities has been conducted both on the sub-sample of officers belonging to a particular gender and the sub-
sample of officers belonging to a particular service. When it comes to the expert opinion, they have assessed on the suggested five-stage scale to what extent the programs of the University of Defense in Belgrade are focused on the development of managerial competences.

Key words: managerial competences, officers, educational needs, experts

The relation of personalized religiosity and militaristic political culture among the citizens of the Republic of Serbia

Andrijana Maksimović and Zoran Milosavljević

The secularization process has made classical religiosity lose its traditionally dominant position. It seems that this position is slowly assumed by various forms of secular religiosity. Personalized religiosity is not strictly related to religiosity in the classical sense. We operationalize this dimension of religiosity through the following aspects: belief in personal God/spirit/life force, inner spirituality, interest in sacred/supernatural, finding consolation in faith, prayer and/or meditation. Militaristic political culture is a form of political culture based on military power. The preference in relation to the militaristic type of political culture is operatively measured by the four-level scale - "good", "very good", "bad", "very bad". The data we have used are from the European Value Study. It is comparative cross-national and longitudinal research that is implemented according to the unique methodology throughout Europe every ten years. The first such research was conducted in 1981, and the last one was carried out in 2008/2009. Serbia was involved in the last wave of research.

The results of the regression analysis indicate that militaristic political culture is a positive predictor of personalized religiosity. This finding suggests that there is a strong connection between spirituality and military power.

Key words: religiosity, personalized religiosity, militaristic political culture, operationalization

Hybrid conflict - postmodern war, a new face of the old phenomenon

Davor M. Milošević

War has always been a key institution for establishing international relations. After the Cold War, it became clear that the nature of war had changed. The development of civilization, the improvement of relations and the creation of security alliances have led to the fact that war between individual states no longer represents the current possibility.
The changes still take place, and war takes on new forms transforming some old ones at the same time. The new technology has enabled the developed countries, above all the United States, to confront hostile conventional armed forces using technology. All of this has led to the displacement of conflicts among non-state actors.

Key words: war, hybrid war, contemporary war, postmodern conflict, globalization of war, asymmetric pressure

Motivation of the SAF professional members in relation to earnings

Marija Lukić and Tamara Gajić

Working with people through effective communication and adequate motivation of employees, as well as management through power, authority, responsibility, influence is today a great challenge for all managers, especially for those who deal with human resources management in an organization. One should not ignore the fact that the success of an organization, including the military one, depends largely on the capabilities and motivation of the employees in it. Motivation is the one that keeps employees at work in the organization, that is, it keeps the activity in the defined direction.

The subject of this paper is the earnings of the Serbian Armed Forces professional members according to the category of personnel, and the impact of market basket, both minimum and average one, on average salaries of the Serbian Armed Forces professional members. Can the average salary of the Serbian Armed Forces professional members satisfy minimum and average market basket, and what is that, in addition to salary, that can affect motivation of employees and thus stop natural wastage?

Key words: motivation, salary, minimum market basket, average market basket, employees, Serbian Armed Forces

Analysis of the operation of voluntary pension funds in the Republic of Serbia

Ivan Piljan, Tatjana Piljan and Dušan Cogoljević

The provision of pensions in the pension system of the Republic of Serbia faces great difficulties. The main cause of these difficulties is the growing number of pensioners in comparison to the number of employees, whose income collects the money that is necessary for pensions. These problems in the world are solved by reforms in the pension system and introduction of a three-pillar pension system in which the existing system will be reformed and converted into the first pillar, while the second and the third pillar will be based on pension funds. Pension funds are institutional investors, who have special characteristics and ways of investing.
The subject of this paper is an analysis of the operation of pension funds in the Republic of Serbia. The paper presents the strategy and instruments for financing pension funds in the Republic of Serbia, as well as all parameters of operation in the past ten years.

Key words: pension, pension system, reform in pension system, pension funds

Personality as a factor of behavior in an organization

Jelena Mijatović

The paper considers personality and variables that influence its development, the existing personality theories, types, features and characteristics of personality, its characteristics and the adjustment of personality of an individual with business - its dimensions significant for organizational behavior and its connection with the type of work.

Key words: personality, behavior, organization, factor

Particularities of deradicalization of Islamic terrorists

Marko Krstić

Several terrorist attacks that have occurred around the world at the beginning of the new millennium are still firmly integrated into the collective consciousness of the Western world today. The attacks in New York, Madrid and London have become symbols of a new threat to the social stability of the Western societies: violent Islamic extremism.

The paper will present the methods that are the most effective in separating Islamic extremists from terrorist activities. While the fight against Islamic terrorism requires the use of military force to hinder the movement of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Iraq, the defeat of Islamic extremism requires a multidimensional approach that necessarily involves strategies to eradicate its roots and causes. Recognizing this, several countries have developed "deradicalization programs" that, through a series of techniques, advocate the solution of the ideological roots of violent Islamic ideologies.

Key words: Islamic extremism, terrorism, strategy, deradicalization, ideology

Vardar Macedonia in the time of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Yugoslavia in the period 1918-1941

Nikola Tošić Malešević

The territory of Macedonia, due to its geographical position and strategic importance, has always been interesting to all Balkan states, as well as non-Balkan great powers. One of the states interested in the Macedonian territory was the Kingdom of...
Serbia. In the First (1912-1913) and the Second Balkan War (1913) it acquired the part of the aforementioned area called Vardar Macedonia, which, after World War I (1914-1918), became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (since October 3, 1929 renamed the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) and it remained in it until its dissolution at the beginning of World War II in 1941. This paper deals with the period and position of Vardar Macedonia from 1918 to 1941.

Key words: Macedonia, Vardar Macedonia, Vardar Banovina, Kingdom of Serbia, Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes/Yugoslavia, Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (autonomous), Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (united), companies, „flying squads“, „anti-Komitas bands“, Army of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes /Royal Yugoslav Army, police, Gendarmery, Kachaks, economy, society, April War

Religious tradition of the Serbian Army in the Great War (1914-1918)

Jovan Gligorić

The Great War, inter alia, had a strong religious dimension. Almost all participants, especially Serbs, have not written much about it, due to the suppression of religious and national ideals by the Yugoslav idea and later communist ideology.

On the basis of numerous examples from domestic and foreign literature, the author tries to adapt numerous biblical motives, legendary sayings and predictions of Heaven, which followed the Serbian Army from the beginning to the end of the war, to living examples, adjust and translate their meaning to the everyday life of warriors, with the intention of informing the reader, at least to some extent, about the religious milieu of that time and the domain of the mystery of faith and its spiritual enlightenment and the effects on the morale of the famous ancestors. In addition to the numerous motives of the religious tradition mentioned, the author pays special attention to Golgotha and Easter.

Key words: war, Serbian Army, God, Golgotha, Easter