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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

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Introduction

INTRODUCTION OF EDITOR

We are witnessing that the modern world has become more dangerous, unstable and unpredictable. Instead of era of global harmony whose start was announced by the globalists at the end of the last century, the world is experiencing a dramatic experience of comprehensive endangering the security. The fascinating technological progress and ambivalent global processes, with their comprehensive and general presence in lives of modern people, reduce distance and accelerate relations of interdependence, but also strongly encourage animosities and conflicts among them. Changed social circumstances, as well as the decrease of the nation-states potential to protect their national interests, have opened space for the "democratization of violence" and the domination of non-traditional forms and actors of endangering the security.

Today, it is quite clear that states are not the sole, exclusive possessors of monopoly over the use of physical force. Extremism, terrorism and organized crime, as a reflection of transnational dynamics and more pronounced antisocial nature of global processes, with their prominent asymmetrical characteristics that are the opposite to traditional, Westphalian, model of endangering the security of modern societies are making the world the space exposed to universal risk. The diversity of asymmetric threats, regarding the organization, goals, motives and methods of operation, confirms the view that this is a specific strategic approach which is sustainability based on the principles of asymmetry. With their effects on the global rise in insecurity and uncertainty, as well as increasing the complexity of geopolitical competition of the key actors in contemporary international politics, asymmetric threats are imposing a number of dilemmas regarding suitable traditional strategic approaches as a framework for finding answers to asymmetric endangering the security.

With the aim to find scientifically based answers of some questions that reflect the contemporary security environment, Strategic Research Institute and the Department for Strategy of the National Defence School organized an international scientific conference "Asymmetry and Strategy." that held in Belgrade on October 18 2017. The Thematic Collection of

Articles: "Asymmetry and Strategy" is just result of this international scientific meeting. It contains 41 articles, among them 18 articles are from abroad, written by eminent scholars in the field of security. Each article has been reviewed by reviewers, international experts competent for the field to which the paper is related. We particularly want to emphasize that the Thematic Collection of Articles, according to the Rules of procedure and way of evaluation and quantitative expression of scientific results of researchers, passed by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, as scientific publication, meets the criteria for obtaining the status of thematic collection of papers of international importance.

The articles in The Thematic Collection of Articles are presented through three sections: *The Concept of Asymmetric Threats*, *Strategic Context of Contemporary Asymmetrical Threats*, and *Relevance of Classical Strategic Thought*.

The articles of first section *Concept of Asymmetric Threats* are dedicated to defining the concepts of asymmetry and asymmetric threats, identifying forms and contents of their appearance, as well as their actors, which may be state and non-state. Also, articles of this section are dedicated to the historical context of manifestation and the development of asymmetrical forms of security threats and the asymmetric war as a specific phenomenon.

Contemporary global security environment and concrete forms of asymmetric security threats such as extremism, terrorism, organized crime, migration and other, at the global, regional and national levels is considered in the second section *Strategic Context of Modern Asymmetric Threats*. In addition, in this section concrete measures that can be taken as a strategic response to a wide range of asymmetric threats, from their identification to creating conditions for preventive and repressive action are considered and offered.

Articles of the third section, *Relevance of Classical Strategic Thought*, particularly consider the relation between the strategy and the contemporary state of international security, with all the features that characterize the transition period from a unilateral to a multilateral world order, and the power redistribution of key actors. In this context, in addition to the alarming rise of asymmetric threats, it is necessary to bear in mind the classic strategic thought, given that the traditional instruments of power of nation states have not yet been overcome as it was anticipated, and even considered at one point.

The Thematic Collection of Articles has no ambition to answer on the numerous questions concerning the asymmetry and the strategic thought regarding this phenomenon, because this is not possible, bearing in mind the

complexity of the phenomenon of asymmetry. However, we are convinced that the Collection of Articles presents a framework for better understanding of asymmetric risks to the safety of contemporary societies. Also, we firmly believe that it will be a strong incentive for further research of asymmetry, as well as possible strategic responses to asymmetrically-based threats.

Editor-in-Chief
Assoc. prof. Stanislav Stojanovic, PhD