



THINKING ABOUT SECURITY BEYOND PATTERNS – BETWEEN ALGORITHMS, DOCTRINES AND FRAGILE BORDERS

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We live in a time when war no longer begins with a gunshot and ends with a signature on a treaty. It is waged in visible and invisible theatres, in social networks and neural networks, in maritime spaces and in servers, in the human mind and in the cold logic of algorithms. Issue 2/2025 of Gândirea militară românească/Romanian Military Thinking journal reflects this new reality: a world that is undergoing an accelerated transition process, where the instruments of power are increasingly diversified, and the moral and legal limits are constantly put to the test. The authors of the articles in the present issue bring to attention a wide range of themes that are critical for understanding the current and future international security architecture. What becomes evident from all the contributions is the transition from a classic, linear and predictable defence model to a fluid, adaptive one, which is deeply interconnected with all dimensions of social, economic and information life.

The concept of full-spectrum warfare (Iulian Chifu and Cosmin Grigore) perfectly illustrates this change. In the age when “unknown unknowns” become integral part of strategic planning, surprise and adaptability matter more than numerical or technological superiority. Thinking the “unimaginable” is no longer an academic exercise, but an operational necessity.

The Russian Federation is conducting a complex hybrid offensive, using non-military means to destabilize the European Union member states. From disinformation and information manipulation to the instrumentalization of migration and support for extremist parties, the hybrid arsenal is used to undermine the EU internal cohesion (Cătălin Andruș and Lucian Ivan). While being faced with this persistent pressure, it is necessary to adopt proactive countermeasures, by strengthening European resilience mechanisms and by consolidating national defence capabilities against hybrid threats.

In the same vein, the study on the surveillance of critical maritime infrastructure (Lavinia-Elena Tănase and Lucian Valeriu Scipanov) reveals a vulnerability that is too little addressed at national level: dependence on the seabed – a space where conflicts are not seen, but are won or lost silently. The integration of artificial intelligence into maritime



surveillance is not a technological fad, but a necessary reaction to the increasingly unstable realities in the Black Sea region.

An example of a major challenge is that of autonomous weapon systems. They are weapons that can make life or death decisions without direct human involvement, which bring to the fore ethical, legal and existential dilemmas. Can algorithms learn responsibility? Artificial intelligence, this engine of strategic progress, gives rise to one of the most acute contemporary debates: how far can we go with the automation of violence? The article signed by Ana-Raluca Stancu and Diana-Cristiana Lupu, dedicated to the ethical-related challenges generated by lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), highlights the risks of transferring life or death decisions to machines. Without conscience, without empathy, without moral responsibility, AI is able only to mimic ethics, not to apply it with human discernment. Thus, the risk of “normalization of brutality” is emerging, in the event of selecting and neutralizing targets become algorithmic, depersonalized processes.

From another perspective, Punsara Amarasinghe reminds us, through his study of the LTTE's guerrilla warfare in Sri Lanka, that asymmetric warfare – in which an inferior force employs innovation and unpredictability – continues to be a constant in contemporary conflict. The LTTE not only exploited every breach in the conventional superiority of the government in Colombo, but also anticipated tactics that are now reappearing, in other forms, in other regions of the world. Composite warfare, as the author defines it, is becoming an operational model that is increasingly used in modern conflicts – a mix of ideology, propaganda, cyberattacks and irregular violence.

In the context of geopolitics, Ecaterina Mațoi and Flavius Caba-Maria conduct an analysis of the Abraham Accords, which highlights another security dynamic: that of the fragile balance between reconciliation and latent tension. The regional integration initiative between Israel and Arab states marks an important moment in the security architecture of the Middle East. However, it hides deep conditioning and a competition of visions. Mutual recognition is not just a diplomatic matter, but a power play between global interests, religious identities and fluid geopolitical realities. This analysis contextualizes a phenomenon that influences not only the Middle East, but also the perceptions of alliances and the balance of power on a global scale.

Returning to the Pontic space, Romania's maritime strategy (Constantin Ciorobeia) is considered to be an anchor of regional stability,

but its efficiency depends on synchronization with the constantly changing technological and geopolitical realities. The great powers doctrinal transformations (Romică Cernat) show us that we can no longer ignore the systemic and interdependent nature of current conflicts.

In the two articles published in the current issue, Romeo Boșneagu addresses topics of strategic interest for the military and academic community, highlighting the importance of research in military meteorology and the impact of ocean acidification on underwater operations – areas that are essential for the naval forces adaptation to the new security challenges in the Black Sea region.

The Republic of Moldova considers the urgent need to strengthen its defence capabilities too (Ion Coropcean). After a long period marked by political uncertainty and underfunding, the National Armed Forces have undergone a new stage in development, benefiting from both domestic initiatives and international cooperation projects. According to a recent analysis, this military reconfiguration is aimed at building modern forces, capable of effectively responding to security challenges and actively contributing to regional stability. Strengthening the military institution is no longer just a matter of strategic option, but an immediate necessity in the face of emerging risks.

Finally, the human dimension remains essential. The selection of personnel for missions (Alice-Claudîța Mandes), the understanding of ideological terrorism (Florentina-Loredana Dragomir and Răzvan Enache) or the analysis of digital radicalization (Florentina-Loredana Dragomir) demonstrate that modern warfare is waged not only with weapons, but also with minds, ideas and perceptions.

In this complex landscape, Romania no longer has the luxury of neutrality. As numerous articles in this issue show – from the protection of maritime infrastructure to naval strategy or the great powers security doctrines –, we must assume a proactive role in terms of both clearly defining our own strategic vision and of engaging in international debates on the ethics, legality and the future of warfare.

The future is not written in binary code, but in choices. And choices, especially in the field of security, must be made lucidly, responsibly and – above all – consciously. The war of the future may be waged by drones, algorithms or non-state actors, but peace will also depend on people – on our ability to adapt without losing our humanity.

