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Abstracts

## ABSTRACTS

### The *imperial image* of the new world order: Is this political realism?

*Vicente Palacio de Oteyza*

This article analyses the different images of the world order belonging to the realist theory of international relations, and their relationship to the neo-conservative doctrines of the American imperial order. It deals with answering the question of whether or not the current Republican administration's unipolar-imperial image of the world order can be considered a form of political realism. Both the defenders of the unipolar-imperial order and its detractors often ascribe this image to the tradition of realism, where two other images subsequent to the end of the Cold War can be placed: the geo-economic and multipolar images. However, an analysis of the different images reveals that the neo-conservative doctrines of the new imperial order depart considerably from realism at the descriptive, prescriptive and predictive levels, to the point where they become incompatible with it. This study concludes that the imperial image is an anomaly not only with respect to political realism but also with respect to the unipolar image itself.

### The fight against international terrorism and changes in the U.S. nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament strategy

*Inmaculada Marrero Rocha*

This article examines how the the fight against international terrorism, as a new organising principle in U.S. foreign policy and security policy, has conditioned and modified the American conception of and strategy for combatting nuclear arms proliferation. On

the one hand, it analyses the concepts of “axis of evil” or “rogue states” as instruments of automatic and forced connection between international terrorism and nuclear arms-proliferating states. On the other hand, it also deals with the changes in American non-proliferation and disarmament strategy, characterised by a distrust towards international cooperation and a clear preference for using means of a unilateral nature, which challenge, and even scorn, international institutions and the rules of international law in this area.

## Progress and limitations on hemispheric security at the beginning of the 21st century

*Raúl Benítez Manaut*

At the beginning of the 21st century, there has been a notable widening of the range of threats in the world, where terrorism, especially after September 11, 2001, is clearly becoming the principal risk to confront. At the hemispheric level, the difficulties in reaching a consensus in the area of security and defence are myriad, primarily due to the importance different countries place on their national security as a priority element, and due to the pre-eminence of global security designs that transcend and seek to determine policies and commitments at this level. The hegemonic presence of the United States leads this country to want to export its global security agenda, and this does not always coincide with the views of the nations of Latin America. The application of the Colombia Plan is a good example of this, since it bears witness to disagreements over the means and strategies employed.

## The United States and Israel, from alliance to symbiosis

*Ferran Izquierdo Brichs*

The relationship between Israel and the United States has been evolving from that of an alliance during the Cold War to a symbiosis nowadays. American policy toward the Middle East is marked by its interest in oil, to which its growing relationship with Israel has gradually been added. However, although for a long time the interests it shared with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries moderated its policy and balanced its support of Israel somewhat, in the last few years its alliance with Israel has come to dominate Washington's strategy. This is reflected in its invasion of Iraq and its tensions with Arab countries. The reason for this evolution must be sought, primarily, in the influence that Israel and pro-Zionist lobbies have gained in the domestic policy of the United States.

## Drawing the Caspian Sea: The defining of its legal status in the uncertain post-soviet scenario

*J. Oscar Alvarez Calzada*

With the disappearance of the USSR, the Caspian Sea ceased to be an inland sea controlled by the USSR and Iran, to become the object of desire of the new states bordering on it which see in it, and concretely in its extraordinary natural resources, the great hope of economic salvation for their uncertain future. If we add to this the interests of the great regional actors, Russia and Iran, and those of the United States and the large multinational energy corporations, we get one of the post-Soviet scenarios that arouses the most interest in international public opinion. In this context, the article analyses the unstable situation created in the area in the face of the impossibility of the states bordering on this sea to arrive at a unanimous agreement on the method to follow for dividing up its waters and, therefore, to settle the question of access to the vast natural resources that lie beneath its floor.

## European Commission programmes with Asia: the case of Cambodia

*Jesús Carlos Corral Fuentes*

After reviewing the historical, political, and, above all, social context of Cambodia, in which this Southeast Asian country's progress but also its great shortfalls are shown, the author enters fully into the previous history and current situation of relations between the EU and Cambodia. For this, he analyses the different existing economic, trade and cooperation agreements, to focus on the EU-Cambodia Programme (1993-2000) concerning technical and financial assistance, restoration, disaster victims, NGOs, refugees, democracy and human rights, as well as the environment, drugs and economic cooperation. The EU, along with Japan, is one of the main contributors to Cambodia's process of restoration and reconstruction, although the overall size of the EU's cooperation is still considerably lower than that provided by the bilateral cooperation of its member states.

## UE-ACP relations and the strategy for Europe on life sciences and biotechnology

*Javier Manzano San Román*

A reflection on the opportunities and risks deriving from the strategy designed by the European Commission for biotechnology and life sciences for developing countries. Specifically, it analyses the possible impact of the application of this strategy in the new framework of the relations between the European Union and the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regulated by the Cotonú Agreement.

## The pharmaceutical sector, patents and access to medicines in the South

*Xabier Barrutia and Patxi Sábalu*

This article deals with the lack of access to drug treatments experienced by the poor in the economic South. First, it studies the extraordinarily profitable pharmaceutical industry, whose research forgets about the illnesses typical of the South, given its great business and market concentration in the countries of the North, where marketing is decisive. Then, it deals with the relationship between the high prices of medicines and a patent system which is greatly strengthened by the rules of the WTO and which clashes with people's right to health, as revealed by the case of HIV-AIDS treatment in the countries of the South. The paper concludes by underscoring the need for an active intervention by the public sector, both at a national and international level, which would limit the patents on drugs and promote research on the forgotten diseases.

## Research sources in international relations

*Gonzalo de Salazar*

The aim of this article is to deal with the problem currently posed in the field of international relations by a research method still based on systematically resorting to "citing authority". A significant number of political scientists deal with international reality and political phenomena by means of an adaptation of the technique of analysing

the contents of texts that other researchers have previously produced. This practice of mediaeval origin also asserts itself in projects carried out by doctoral students, contributing to a paralysis in research and to approaches that often stray from reality through an unavoidable tendency to lag: in having to turn to preceding citations to support a statement, the researcher is forced to go back in time, and to move away from the phenomenon that he/she is trying to study. Often, the authoritative citations supplant the primary sources of the study and cover up, with a myriad of footnotes, the absence of direct contact with the phenomena that is intended to be studied, resorting principally to citing books and articles published earlier on the same issue by other writers. On many occasions, the analysis, restructuring and combination of others' texts as the "research method"—although they are faithfully reflected as "references cited"—replaces true field work by the researcher and avoids the effort necessary for analysing reality in an attempt to understand its phenomena through empirical procedures.