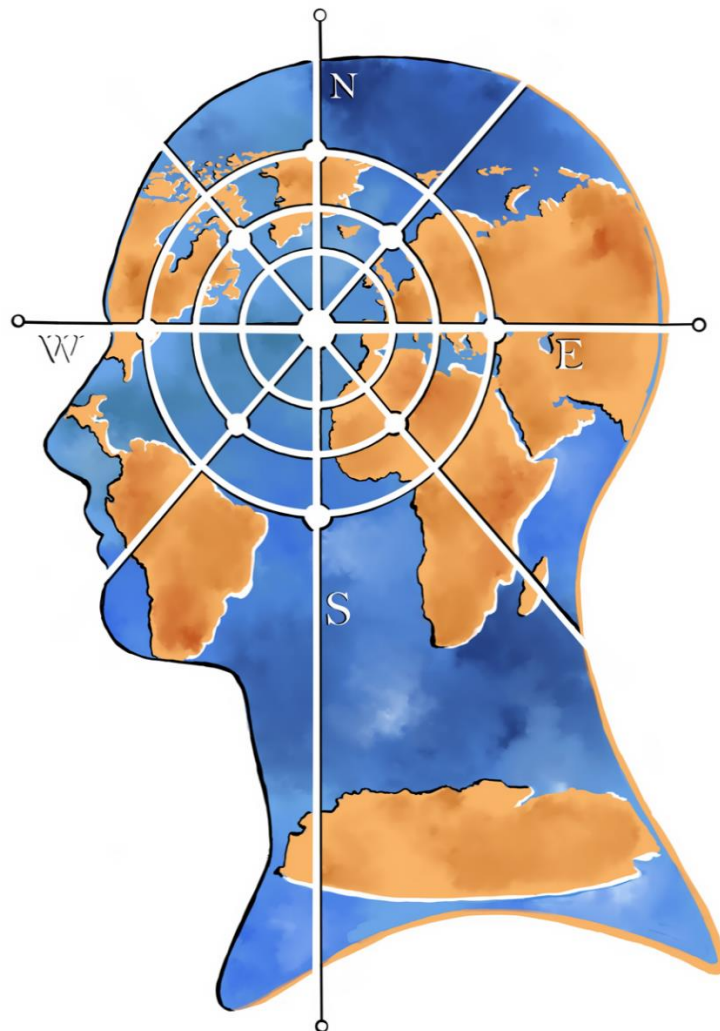


JOURNAL *of* EUROPEAN *and* AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE STUDIES

AN INTERNATIONAL PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL



Research Institute for European and American Studies - RIEAS
Department of Security and Intelligence Studies - Coastal Carolina University

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The *Journal of European and American Intelligence Studies (JEAIS, formerly the Journal of Mediterranean and Balkan Intelligence – JMBI)* is published by the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS) under the editorial direction of the Department of Security and Intelligence Studies at Coastal Carolina University. It is an international academic-led scholarly publication that focuses on the field of intelligence and related areas of study and practice, such as terrorism and counterterrorism, domestic and international security, geopolitics, and international relations. The journal's rationale is driven by the global nature of security challenges, where we are called more than ever to communicate and work collaboratively to solve our common problems. Thus, the *JEAIS* aspires to promote an international dialogue between diverse perspectives and experiences, based on original research on the broader European and American practice and study of intelligence. The *JEAIS* is an all-inclusive academic platform that allows accomplished and emerging scholars and practitioners from both the public and private sectors to share their knowledge, ideas and approach to intelligence studies. By crafting each journal issue through a rigorous and highly selective screening process of potential contributors, and an exhaustive review process, the *JEAIS* adheres to its mission, which is three-fold: (a) to provide an equal opportunity for academics and practitioners of intelligence to discuss and challenge established and emerging ideas; (b) to address existent knowledge gaps by advancing new knowledge; and (c) to shape the evolution of intelligence scholarship beyond traditional communities of research.

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Editor's Note

Joseph Fitsanakis

Professor, Department of Intelligence and Security Studies, Coastal Carolina University

As the tumultuous year 2022 comes to a close, the editorial team of the *Journal of European and American Intelligence Studies (JEAIS)* is pleased to present yet another multi-themed issue of our publication. In this tenth issue of *JEAIS*, we have included six carefully reviewed studies that present our readers with a varied and comprehensive analysis of topics that are both timely and relevant. We believe that the subject of relevance is crucial here: never in the post-Cold War environment has the field of intelligence been more pertinent to our lives. The authors of our present issue aptly demonstrate that relevance through their work.

In his well-crafted article, “Counter-Terrorism in the European Union: The Role of Intelligence Co-operation”, Artur Gruszczak, Professor of Social Sciences at Poland’s Jagiellonian University, offers a detailed critique of what he refers to as the “diminished effectiveness in national counter-terrorism efforts” within the European Union. Professor Gruszczak employs a post-functionalist approach in order to trace and analyze the recent transformation of the European Union’s counter-terrorism intelligence cooperation (CTIC) “from the formula of strategic intelligence community to a multifarious conglomerate of bi- and multi-lateral networks.” He concludes that it is not too late or the European Union to mend its CTIC model. However, much work needs to be done to that end, and without delay.

Marco Fais, a highly accomplished analyst with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), is an ally of this publication. His work was first hosted in

our pages in Volume 5, Issue 1 of *JEAIS*. Earlier this year, Marco entrusted us with yet another of his articles, which is titled “Recruitment Strategies and Methods of jihadist Groups in the Sahel”. In this article, he returns to his primary focus, which is the intricate mosaic of jihadist militancy in the volatile Sahel region of Africa. Fais points out that Sahelian armed groups place an inordinate amount of attention to recruiting new members. Yet it is wrong to suggest, he argues, that recruitment and retention methods are the same across all jihadist groups. In fact, groups that may operate in the same territory, follow widely differing approaches. For instance, Boko Haram recruits proportionally more children and women than any other group. Other groups, like Al-Qaida in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), tend to recruit mostly male rank-and-file personnel across the ethnic and racial spectrums, but hire commanders locally. Some groups have an international orientation and are staffed largely by a broad range of nationalities. Along with differences, there are common trends, Fais writes: for instance, in highly unstable areas, new recruits join these groups, “not because they believe in the[ir] ideology [...], but out of desperation.” Ultimately, these trends are utilized by the groups’ recruiters, “who are knowledgeable of the dynamics of local societies”, Fais concludes.

In our third article, Taylor Ham, an MA student at the University of Texas’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, examines the obscure world of Russian Private Military Contractors (PMCs), from the point of view of Russia’s domestic news media. Ham notes that scholarly research has little to say about the way in which the Kremlin’s narratives are utilized to pacify the Russian population. The author focuses on the two most prolific Russian news agencies, RIA Novosti and TASS, and uses critical discourse analysis to identify patterns in their narratives about Russian mercenary operations in the Central African Republic (CAR) between 2016 and 2021. Ham finds that, rather than addressing the presence of PMCs in the CAR, these outlets sought to distract their audiences “from events involving mercenary groups and framed the situation through several core themes, namely beneficial economic and military cooperation, or violence.”

The timely subject of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and their role in regional conflicts is examined by our fourth author, Dimitrios Kalogiannis, a captain in the Hellenic Armed Forces. In his well-written article, Kalogiannis attempts to establish a link between this new technology and the phenomenon of combat escalation in regional conflicts around the world. He discusses a number of recent and ongoing regional conflicts in order to make the claim that the use of UAVs and other unmanned aerial systems is literally “shap[ing] new dynamics in regional conflicts.” This is likely to continue to happen, Kalogiannis argues, as shown by the propensity of military commanders and policymakers to use UAVs “increasingly aggressively and creatively” in order to “ensure multi-tiered battlefield supremacy in different combat situations.”

The article selection in our present issue includes a guest appearance by Professor Christian Kaunert, who co-manages *JEAIS*' editorship. Professor Kaunert has teamed up with one of his PhD researchers, Kanishka Nawabi, in co-authoring the article: "Pashtuns: Madrassas' Cannon Fodders." The term madrassa refers simply to a school, but Nawabi and Kaunert focus on the historical transformation of madrassas into political organizations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. They argue that the emergence of the Afghan Taliban "is part of the same continuum of madrassa-led policy to instigate political violence against the Afghan state." In fact, the Pashtuns, who form the popular base of the Taliban movement, have been consistently targeted by madrassa-led "religious narratives [aiming] to recruit Pashtuns" to the Taliban, by glorifying violence. Consequently, the role of madrassas in promoting jihad in Pakistan and Afghanistan has been central to the history of that movement, the authors claim.

Our final author is a financial strategist, who employs the methodology of his trade in order to decipher the complex dynamics of the Greek-Turkish rivalry in the eastern Mediterranean. Vasileios Valasakis argues that recent developments in the region present Greece with a unique opportunity to "reposition herself in the peripheral chessboard." But, to do so, the country should seek to expand her territorial shelf to 8.5 miles, while "incorporating the doctrine of Anticipatory First Strike" against Turkey. This is bound to animate Turkey, and may be seen as aggressive, even by Greece's allies, Valasakis concedes. However, he claims that these moves by Athens will ultimately "comprise a dynamic deterrence policy" that will actually enhance dialogue between Greece and Turkey, "safeguard the interests of the Western alliance" and ultimately promote peace and stability in the Mediterranean.

The *JEAIS* editorial team thanks our authors for adding their informed voices to yet another well-timed and insightful issue of this publication. True to its founding mission, *JEAIS* remains responsive to its readership, whose members are encouraged to contact the editorial team with comments, suggestions and criticism about our content.

