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Letter from the Director

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, which is part of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Florida International University (FIU), is honored to publish the second issue of *Global Security Review* (GSR). GSR represents our institute's ongoing effort to bridge the divide between academia and the policy world and to increase public understanding of the most critical national security challenges. The first issue addressed a wide range of threats that impact national security, from the late Robert Jervis' article on global terrorism to pieces on U.S. energy security, Plan Colombia, terrorism in the Caribbean, and the growing cyber threats. This issue focuses on strategic competition in Latin America and the Caribbean and the geo-political implications.

The global environment of the Twenty-First Century continues to become more politically, culturally, and technologically complex with the increasing connectiveness of the world, growth within the cyber domain, and the importance of the information environment in controlling narratives. A rising China, a recalcitrant Russia, and a growing number of proxies challenge western values and U.S. hegemony in the world, particularly in Latin America. Using a variety of military and economic tools, as well as disinformation and soft power, China and Russia create strategic ambiguity that reduces recognition of threats and appropriate responses by partner nations. Lines between war and peace are blurred, leading to a new paradigm of strategic competition.

The first article by Hal Brands and Ryan Berg provides an overview of strategic competition in the Western Hemisphere, adding historical and political context to its evolution since the Monroe Doctrine. It provides principles for an appropriate U.S. response. Margaret Myers follows with an insightful look at China's COVID-19 Diplomacy in the region, to include its objectives and methods that are intended to reinforce regional ties and advance commercial and policy interests. Vladimir Rouvinski pivots to another great-power rival, Russia, and its return to the Western Hemisphere. He explains Russia's view of its right to advance special interests in neighboring, former Soviet states and how this drives Russian motivations within Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as its efforts to control the narrative in the information environment. Furthermore, many environmental, economic, political, security, and health factors have driven significant migration throughout the world in recent years. Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian and Diego Chaves-González explore the relationship between natural disasters, internal displacement, and violence as drivers of Central American migration. As an increasing number of state and non-state actors conduct a variety of cyber operations, Louise Marie Hurel looks beyond "great powers" in her article examining how Latin America views cyber operations and norms. Finally, Marcus Boyd and Samuel Henkin address the growing threat of transnational organized crime, and their global scope, institutionalized violence, and impact on the global economy.

In conclusion, we hope that you enjoy our second issue of *Global Security Review*. GSR will be published annually and include articles from leading scholars and practitioners that address the most pressing national security issues. FIU and the Gordon Institute will continue hosting conferences and workshops and publishing policy papers, reports, books, and articles on these topics, and will include this content in FIU's Security Research Hub. The Security Research Hub is a centralized, open-source community that supports collaboration and shared understanding on security topics by leveraging subject matter experts from across academia, civil society, government, and private industry.

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