


In this edition we conclude our series on “The War for the Public Mind” by Mr. Nuño Rodríguez, Political Scientist and Analyst, with “Theoretical Tools for the Media’s Construction of Reality.” Mr. Rodríguez explains how the media system influences the thoughts and behaviors of society and how a synthetic reality created by the media is assumed as a reality by a large part of the population. In this capstone article, Mr. Rodríguez exhorts the need to seek perspectives that encompass all of humanity as a single living organism.

Our next two articles focus on regional responses to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. In his article, “Brazilian Air Force against COVID-19 - A case study,” Lt Col Luis E P C Cordeiro, Brazilian Air Force, describes how the BAF actions taken to date have been focused on the daily battle against COVID-19, and points out the importance of learning how to make quick decisions, whether sending airplanes across the ocean to rescue citizens or mobilizing rapid deployments of hospitals and clinics—all the while optimizing the use of public resources. Next, Lt Col Oswal Sigüeñas Alvarado, Peruvian Air Force (FAP), in his article “Transformation of Peruvian Air Power during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Humanitarian aid under the Tayta Plan,” describes how the FAP’s immediate response capability in all regions of Peru has become the major purveyor of logistical support operations in response to COVID-19, proving that airpower can efficiently assume any type of operation, in any scenario, and will continue to transform itself in the face of any threat to national security.

Our next two articles focus on the strategic and tactical thinking we need to understand regarding this pandemic. In their article, “Who is Seizing the ‘COVID-19 Moment?’ - A Battle for Power in Latin America”, authors Cadet James Landy and Dr. Kelly Senters Piazza, PhD, from the USAF Academy, assert that both China and the United States capitalized on the first wave of the 2019-2020 Coronavirus Pandemic to uphold their presence and refine their strategy in the Latin American region, and describe how the newfound strategic motives of both countries underlie contemporary patterns of great power assistance to the Latin American region. The next article implores us to think about how to extrapolate the lessons learned about this virus in order to handle future threats—Captain Germán Afanador Ceballos, Colombian Navy, makes the case for how the Internet, virtual reality, and telework have allowed for critical infrastructures and the economy to be maintained during this pandemic. He warns that failure to promptly take preventive measures regarding the regulation and proper use of cyberspace could trigger a cyber outbreak that could lead society to plunge into a prolonged cyber quarantine.

Next, in his article “Historical Solutions for Contemporary Problems - Lessons for Civilian Control of the Venezuelan Military,” author Daniel Levinson Harris states that effective, modern applications of Trinkunas’s methodology for civilian control of the military—leadership sidelining, divide/conquer and appeasement strategies, and mission identification—will prove essential in reducing the role of the military in Venezuelan society and will increase the likelihood of a democratic transition following President Maduro’s exit from power.

As of the writing of this editorial, the first batches of the COVID-19 vaccine are being received and distributed throughout the hemisphere, and as our nations have done throughout time after periods of turmoil, we will recover and return to normalcy. In this light, our final article attests the benefits of international cooperation, during simpler times, not so long ago. In his article, “Once Again We Can Say that ‘We Write History in the Sky’”, Héctor Daniel Ríos Martínez, Major, Honduran Air Force, describes the experience he had while flying new Maule MXT-7-180 aircraft, from the manufacturer in Moultrie, Georgia, USA, to their headquarters in Honduras.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge F. Serafin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jorge" being the most prominent.

Jorge F. Serafin, Lt Col (Ret.), USAF
Editor, USAF Journal of the Americas