




Volume 1 / Issue 1(Inaugural) / Jan.-March, 2026

Editorial - The Nation State: Journal of National Security and Geopolitics

Rebuilding National Security in a Changing World*

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Article Info:

Received: 05 Dec. 2025
Revised: 05 Dec. 2025
Accepted: 05 Dec. 2025
Available online: 15 March, 2026
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70381/w87k3x54>

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Introduction

The Nation State: Journal of National Security and Geopolitics is a major intellectual event of the modern strategic discourse. With the world strategic environment experiencing a dramatic change, the journal places itself as an outlet of rigorous, multidimensional, and policy-relevant scholarship. The sovereignty, power and security requirements of the nation-state are restructured by a combination of both old and new disruptions in spite of the fact that it has been the basic unit of world politics. Classical geopolitics of rivalry is molded with the technological shocks, amorphous threats, ideological disaggregation, and ambiguous territorialities. These changes highlight the necessity of a special scholastic environment, which is grounded on critical profundity and methodological plurality. It is this necessity that influences the intellectual mission of The Nation State which is published with pride by Bharti Publications, New Delhi.

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How to Cite this Article- (APA)- Editorial of *The Nation State: Journal of National Security and Geopolitics* *Rebuilding National Security in a Changing World* DOI- <https://doi.org/10.70381/w87k3x54>

Historical Foundations: Revisiting Westphalia in the Twenty-First Century

Peace of Westphalia (1648) remains the philosophical and legal basis of the contemporary international order. Institutionalizing the principle of sovereign equality, territorial inviolability, and non-interference, the Westphalian settlement defined the main principles according to which the world politics have been organized over the last three and half centuries. Nevertheless, these norms never were immune and always depended on the up and down of empires, the formation of nationalism, armed conflicts of global scale, ideological conflicts, and technological breakthroughs. The Westphalian order is now reaffirmed and challenged with new and complex issues in the twenty first century. The growing polarization of society, politics based on identity, tendencies toward secession, weak democracies represent evidences that the internal unity is tested as never before in order to guarantee the external one. On the outside, technological upheaval, cyber threats, and asymmetric strategies destroy the border of the territorial sovereignty, and the concept of interstate war would not be enough to grasp the problem. Westphalian promise as it is, despite the longevity, is no longer absolute and its principles need to be redefined in order to meet the realities of the hyper-connected world.

Biformity of the Continuity and Evolution in the Contemporary Statecraft

The former is the first problem which is at the junction of continuity and transformation. The nation-state remains a central participant in world politics but the security situation depends on developing relationships and mutual relationships. The character of conflict changed and brought new locations and vulnerabilities as cyber technologies, artificial intelligence, satellite networks and digital surveillance appeared and made the nature of conflict change. The interdependence that is established as a result of economic globalization is susceptible to sanctions, gaps in the supply-chain, and infrastructure dependencies. The hybrid warfare is the combination of the traditional weaponry and disinformation campaigns, mental activity, and economic pressure that makes the conflict multidimensional and difficult to deny. Besides, the pressure of the environment, population imbalances, energy insecurity and transnational criminal networks add to the burden on the states by eroding the resilience and putting a strain on the resources of governance. Such amorphous threats can no longer be addressed using the conventional doctrines; statecraft must be flexible, offensive and multi-domain.

A Dynamic Mission that is Deep, Varied and Analytic

To address the mentioned challenges, The Nation State attempts to create an intellectual ecosystem that would foster critical thinking, interdisciplinary involvement, and fact-based insights. We are not only going back to the well-worn ideas of national interest, sovereignty or territoriality. The journal instead attempts to question the way that these concepts need to develop to be feasible in a period of distributed power, converging crises and the undermining of traditional security boundaries. We will achieve this by conducting scholarship that will inform both scholarly research and policy implementation through drawing on the strategic studies, geopolitics, international law, intelligence studies, political science, and new technologies. The thematic range of the journal, covering both strategic culture and great-power rivalry to cyber sovereignty, defence innovation, and energy geopolitics, facilitate the journal being responsive to the complexity of modern-day security.

Policy-Relevant Scholarship: The Intermediate between Theory and Practice

Ambition to pursue scholarship that is policy relevant is one of the commitments of this journal. Scholarly research in most of strategic societies in the globe does not relate to the realities of decision-makers, military planners, and intelligence agencies. Nevertheless, the sophistication of the theoretical understanding and empirical clarity of the twenty-first century security threats demands. Naval issues require the knowledge of international law as much as naval tactics; cyber attacks demand the fine art of technology and psychological politics; regional issues demand a fine sense of history, identity, and national interests held by superpowers. The Nation State will hope to inspire a literature that not only criticizes but also serves to evolve sound statecraft by developing a dialogue between theorists in academia and those in practice of policy making. It is not aimed at providing prescriptive or deterministic solutions but rather enhancing analytical instruments that can be used by the actors who have to adapt to the uncertainties of geopolitics.

National Security Global and Comparative Perspectives

The other main ambition of the journal is to increase the geographical and intellectual range of the national security studies. Regional experiences and strategic cultures usually frame security debates but the impacts of their implications often cross borders. The maritime disputes in the Indo-Pacific define the worldwide supply chains; the energy insecurities in Europe affect the global energy

foundations; the changing alliances of West Asia impact global security structures, and the politics of resources in Africa impacts global strategic rivalry. With openness to the scholarship of different geographic locations, The Nation State is trying to establish a truly international conversation. Comparative scholarship enables us to discover trends, see differences and deduce lessons which apply in varied situations. The security dilemmas of the small states, the middle powers, and great powers have varying degrees of scope but they have common grounds in their underlying strategic principles that are worth exploring on a comparative basis.

Pluralism Methodologically and Searching Rigorous Inquiry

Methodological pluralism as an aspect of scholarly excellence that is critical is evident in the journal. By definition, security studies can and are boundless with numerous disciplines and require the use of different tools of analysis. The quantitative modelling may be applied to lighten the trends in the appearance of conflicts, the archiving might show the continuity in history, the fieldwork might demonstrate the local material and the theoretical framework might illustrate the situation clearly. The complexity of modern security invokes transparency to new epistemological practices. The fact that our scholarly journal is high is also ensured by our peer review process that is established under the umbrella of double-blinding and discretion as well as intellectual honesty..

Increasing the Intellectual Horizon of National Security

The breadth of the journal gives out the aspiration of making the national security a dynamic and an evolving subject. Matters like territorial integrity, modernization of the military, deterrence theory, diplomacy and war studies are still fundamental. However, they are joined by new aspects like cyber sovereignty, quantum technologies, space geopolitics, disinformation architectures, financial weaponization, supply-chain resilience, and psychological warfare which require equal consideration. With the states dealing with technologically enabled non-state actors, transnational terror networks, and multi-domain competition, the language of strategic studies needs to expand to meet such challenges. The Nation State is aiming to influence the future of the developments in security scholarship by releasing the research covering both old and new fields.

Future Prospects: To World Recognition and Indexing

The journal has one of its strategic priorities being to match with international standards of academic excellence as it begins its developmental path. The Nation State intends to position itself as a reliable and effective academic outlet with the help of Bharti Publications, New Delhi offering powerful institutional and editorial services. One of the key points of our long-term vision is to be indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. Achievement of this milestone will be through consistency in quality of publications, varied authorship, sound peer review procedures, international cooperation, adherence to ethical standards and long sustained commitment to the production of citation worthy scholarship. These are not just administrative targets but we expect those targets to make us a journal of repute in the international academic and strategic society.

The journal will increase its global presence in the coming years by soliciting contributions all over the world, holding thematic special issues, and establishing partnerships with research institutions, think tanks, and higher education. We hope to provide a platform of interdisciplinary discourse through our policy forums, round table discussions and scholarly exchanges that will enhance the understanding of strategy. The thematic focus of the journal will also change with the changing nature of the field of national security, and the journal will be ready to address the new issues in the world.

An Intro into the Future Security Landscape: A Call to Scholarship

The overall assumption, which forms the foundation of this journal, is that the nation-state has still come out to be vital to world order regardless of the shifting functions and areas of operation. The phenomena of re-emerging great-power confrontations, irregular border conflicts, cross-regional terrorist acts, polarization of ideologies and technological upset renders the topic of national security more urgent than ever. We have made ourselves: In a world where the very concept of the nation-state is increasingly challenged, our journal will provide us with the analytical tool to see tomorrow security environment today. This commitment is reflected in the articles in this first issue that give depth analytical information on the shifting paradigms of security, geopolitical orientations and issue of statecraft.

I owe it to the contributors, reviewers, editorial board and Bharti Publications, New Delhi whose assistance and labor is wasted on me. I invite scholars, practitioners, and students to join us in making this journal an interesting intellectual house where assumptions are tested, knowledge built and innovation in research of national security triggered. I am extremely proud and keen on presenting the first issue of *The Nation State: Journal of National Security and Geopolitics*. The hope is that it is a platform to a deeper study, contemplation and theoretical discussion of the future of statecraft and international security.