

## SYMMETRY AND ASYMMETRY IN MILITARY OPERATIONS

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In the '90s, after the end of the Cold War, a set of events took place, a fact that highlighted the evolution of many states towards democracy. Alliances such as the military and political North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other organizations extended, by the adherence of new members, most of them Central and South-Eastern European countries.

As far as NATO is concerned, this was a transformation period, not only quantitatively, with reference to member states' territories, but also at a conceptual level - peacekeeping, nation building and encouraging market economy being only a few of the challenges the Alliance had to deal with. Therefore, the dynamics of missions and military operations changed. Open military conflicts decreased in frequency, while the number of interventions other than war increased, the most frequent being peacekeeping missions under UN: the former Yugoslav territory (Bosnia, Kosovo), Afghanistan.

NATO keeps extending its operation area beyond the member states' borders, the greatest efforts focused on areas such as Afghanistan, but also on smaller missions, such as the ones in Sudan, Iraq and Pakistan. Although NATO is involved in missions on four continents, its central elements of strength remain in the Euro-Atlantic space. Thus, the potential challenges, dangers and threats are generated by both institutional factors and random factors, with origins in the situation from the theaters of operations. Within this context, it is necessary to implement some concrete measures in order to enhance NATO's institutional efficiency, regardless of the assumed missions.