



NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Letter from the President

Dear RC01 colleagues,

In this first newsletter of 2026, I present a summary of the most recent actions we have taken, following what was agreed upon at our Business Meeting held at the ISA Forum 2025 in Rabat:

- We reached out via email to RC01 colleagues whose memberships had lapsed, and several members have since renewed their memberships. Our current membership stands at 83 researchers from 43 countries; 7 of them are newcomers.
- The joint panel ideas gathered from our members for the upcoming ERGOMAS conference at Aarhus University in Denmark, scheduled for 31 May to 4 June, were shared with ERGOMAS. Barış Ateş will attend this conference as the coordinator of activities involving our RC01. We want to remind members interested in participating that the final submission date is 15 February to avoid any delays.
- We have made preliminary contact with a member from South Korea regarding a visit to a military facility during the Congress planned for South Korea in 2027. Details of this visit will be arranged next year and communicated to members attending the congress.
- Additionally, our member Zuzana LUCKAY MIHALCINOVA, who has volunteered to document the history of RC01, has commenced her work. We anticipate that this project will be completed by the summer of 2026.

I wish us a year full of achievements!

Celso Castro

Recent Publications

Journal articles:

1. Dedeoğlu, Çağdaş, & Ateş, Barış (2025). Posthuman military education. *Critical Military Studies*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23337486.2025.2595379>

Abstract

There is a growing body of literature on critical military education on the one hand, and posthuman politics and its extension to posthuman warfare on the other. This article aims to bridge these two areas of scholarship to explore possible connections between professional military education (PME)

and posthumanism. Incorporating a posthuman framework into the management of organized violence through PME can help limit violence towards humans and nonhumans. We therefore focus on integrating posthuman ideals into military education. We believe that PME is one of the most effective and appropriate ways to transmit posthuman ideas to the next generation of soldiers. The article argues that this goal can be achieved by integrating posthumanism into the PME curriculum through military ethics courses and updating pedagogical methods, following an onto-epistemological and ethical turn in PME. By introducing a preliminary framework, we seek to contribute to a process that promotes the long-term survival of humans, as well as other biological and artificial life forms.

2. Kenkel, Kai M., & Jenne, Nicolle (2025). Binding militaries to democratic concepts: the role of civilian policymakers in Brazil and Chile. *Democratization*, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2025.2592834>

Abstract

In this article, we argue that civilian deference to the military in security policymaking is a key factor contributing to faulty threat assessment and declining military effectiveness. Civilian participation in defence policymaking is vital to operationalizing both governmental normative orientations and conceptual innovations in security thinking into the policy domain; in their absence, military-led policy documents eventually reflect the corporate interests of the military rather than a democratically defined national interest. We highlight the inadequacy of institutionalist accounts using recent literature on role conceptions, effectiveness and organizational learning. We probe our claim by examining two diverse cases from Latin America: Brazil and Chile. In Brazil, the civilian leadership relies on the military for threat assessment. The military is still beholden to a dated version of anticommunism and has focused on internal enemies, leading to inadequate doctrinal responses to external threats and diminished operational effectiveness. In Chile, on the other hand, civilians have succeeded in defining an updated, broader security agenda which has gradually become part of the military's self-understanding. This study advances the literature by conceptualizing a concrete mechanism of how civilian involvement in security policymaking safeguards military effectiveness, demonstrating that civilian control is beneficial to both sets of actors involved.

3. Levy, Yagil. 2025. “Dehumanization of Disregard: The Case of Gaza.” *Middle East Policy* 32, no. 3: 3-15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.70004>

Abstract

The prevalent assumption in media discourse suggests that, due to an intelligence failure and the perception of Hamas's being effectively deterred, Israel was unexpectedly attacked on October 7, 2023. This study, by contrast, delves into the concept of “dehumanization of disregard” within the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, drawing from Judith Butler's notion of “ungrievable death.” It posits that Israeli attitudes toward the Gazan population are marked by indifference and neglect. This passive dehumanization coexists with, yet is distinct from, a more active form that overtly degrades Palestinian inhabitants within the human hierarchy. The article contends that this dehumanization of disregard,

which fails to recognize the Gazan population, almost inevitably leads to a denial of their capacity to make a difference and challenge the indirect Israeli control over the Strip. The study examines how this disregard became institutionalized in Israel's approach to Gaza and contributed to the October 7 catastrophe. It concludes that acknowledging Palestinian humanity is not merely a security imperative but an essential precondition for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and advancing toward a sustainable political settlement..

4. Levy, Yagil. (2025). The logic of body counting: from Korea to Gaza. Critical Military Studies, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23337486.2025.2583760>

Abstract

This study examines body counting practices of enemy combatants across six critical conflicts: Korea (1950–1953), Vietnam (1955–1975), Iraq (2003–2011), Afghanistan (2001–2014), Israel's operations in the West Bank and Gaza (from the late 2010's onward), and the Israel-Gaza war (2023–2025). I argue that body counting repeatedly emerged as a key criterion for assessing military progress once warfare shifted from occupying territory to pursuing other goals, such as attrition, destroying enemy forces, enhancing deterrence, counterinsurgency, and counterterrorism. Post-World War II military managerialism made this criterion a ready-made method. Such vague and often unwinnable goals coincided with diminished legitimacy for the use of force and for bearing its associated costs. Thus, the legitimization system shifted from legitimating results—the outcomes of military operations—to legitimating means, focusing on how results are produced and emphasizing their direct impact through casualty numbers. Initially, body counting served as a criterion for progress, but over time it assumed additional functions: encouraging killing, reflecting and promoting dehumanization, demonstrating resolve, mitigating casualty sensitivity, and serving as a humanizing mechanism by distinguishing between intentionally killing combatants and protecting non-combatants.

Book chapters:

1. Ateş, Barış (2025). "Civil-Military Relations", in *The Routledge Handbook of Modern Turkish History*, ed. Mesut Uyar, Edward Erickson. Routledge, pp. 170-182.

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003360261-15/civil-military-relations-bar%C4%B1%C5%9F-ate%C5%9F>

Chapter's Abstract

This chapter delves into the impact of destabilising events, such as internal threats and separatist movements, on Turkish civil-military relations. Despite being frequently mentioned in the literature, the significance of these events is often overlooked. The military's involvement in politics is typically attributed to its longstanding role as the guardian of the country's constitutionally mandated secular norms. However, this perspective often fails to address the threat posed by internal threats, political violence, and, more recently, terrorism, which emerged in the 1980s and compelled the military to assume nearly all state functions in conflict zones for several decades. This chapter argues that

comprehending Turkish civil-military relations requires a holistic perspective that takes into account the effects of internal threats as well as ideological explanations. Historical analysis reveals that the Turkish military have devoted half of their century-long existence to combating internal threats and terrorist organisations, leading to the politicisation of the military. It is reasonable to assert that it is only in the last decade that the Turkish military has achieved a mission definition similar to that of the militaries of developed countries, with which it is often compared in the literature.

Call for Papers

Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences Communications

Submission deadline: 21 July 2026

Editors

Seungsook Moon, PhD

Elisheva Rosman, PhD

Enio Viterbo Martins, PhD

Thema: Cultures of command: identity, power, and belonging in global militaries

Military institutions are among the most enduring and powerful structures in modern society. While often associated with discipline and national defence, they are also deeply embedded in cultural and social life. The concept of military culture encompasses the values, norms, rituals, and identities that shape the lived experiences of those who serve, as well as the ways armed forces are perceived by the societies they represent. From recruitment and training to memorialisation, military culture reflects broader dynamics of belonging.

This collection invites work that explores the cultural dimensions of military life across global contexts. We are particularly interested in how armed forces (both state and non-state) construct and challenge ideas of gender, race, nationalism, professionalism, and sacrifice. As militaries adapt to shifting geopolitical landscapes and global social movements, questions of inclusion, representation, and institutional transformation have become increasingly urgent.

Submission page: <https://www.nature.com/collections/jjaeiccaja>



Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution

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We hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of RC 01's newsletter.