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Introduction

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The *Mexican Yearbook of Global Affairs* (AMAG) presents its fourth volume at a time of transition of the international system. The international order that emerged from the post-Cold War period, characterized by U.S. hegemony and the expansion of a liberal model, continues to be in decline. Strategic competition among the great powers, the difficulties facing multilateralism, the persistence of armed conflicts, as well as tensions surrounding trade and strategic resources, are coexisting with technological transformations that are altering traditional ways of exercising power. In this context, the publication of AMAG's fourth volume not only documents the most significant events of the past year, but also provides a space for critical analysis to understand the deeper forces reshaping power, the economy, and society at the global level.

A common thread running through this volume is the tension between an order in decomposition and the emergence of new logics of power. The revival of the Monroe Doctrine by the administration of Donald Trump in the United States, under the slogan "America First," has ceased to be mere rhetoric and has become an assertive foreign policy that has contributed to redefining international relations. As Pilar Martínez Otero analyzes in her essay "Entre dólares, swaps y Doctrina Monroe," financial instruments such as currency swaps, traditionally technical in nature, have been transformed into tools of coercive economic diplomacy, used to condition the political alignment of countries such as Argentina. This transactional and power-based logic, also analyzed by Raúl Benítez Manaut in "Trump 2.0 Desafíos geopolíticos globales," reveals a world in which competition among great powers —the United States, China, and, to some extent Europe— is being waged on multiple fronts: commercial, technological, military, and increasingly in cyberspace and the field of artificial intelligence.

Precisely, the digital revolution and artificial intelligence (AI) constitute the axis of an epochal transformation. In his essay “Diplomacia digital, ciberdiplomacia y el uso de la inteligencia artificial,” Eduardo Roldán immerses us in a world in which power is no longer measured solely by military or economic capacity, but by control over data, algorithms, and digital infrastructures. Diplomacy, once an art reserved for states, is being challenged by the emergence of cyber diplomacy as a crucial global battlefield. In an interconnected but deeply unequal world, the digital divide is becoming a new form of international stratification.

This stratification is dramatically manifested in gender disparities in scientific production. In this regard, Silvia Patricia Paredes Hernández and Rosalía Guerrero Arenas, in their essay “La producción científica en América Latina,” present compelling data on the persistent gap faced by women researchers, particularly in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Structural factors such as the sexual division of labor, gender stereotypes, and the lack of work–family reconciliation policies limit not only women’s participation, but also the quality and diversity of scientific knowledge. Their analysis is a reminder that gender equality is not a secondary issue, but a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and innovation.

The crisis of the liberal order also has an environmental and developmental dimension. Omar de Jesús Reyes Pérez, in his analysis of COP30 in Belém, examines the poor results of the most recent climate summit. Despite progress in adaptation and financing, mitigation—the heart of the fight against climate change—remains stalled by the opposition of fossil-fuel-producing countries and the lack of binding commitments. This stagnation contrasts with scientific urgency and with the struggles of local communities, such as those in the Huasteca Potosina, where, as María Cecilia Costero Garbarino and Adán Reyes Eguren recount in their essay “Del aula al territorio,” human mobility and forced displacement are everyday realities that national and international policies have failed to address.

The regional dimension of this crisis is analyzed in several essays. In “La cooperación internacional para el desarrollo: crisis, resiliencia adaptativa y tendencias,” Fausto Quintana Solórzano diagnoses the erosion of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) system in the face of the rise of nationalist governments that prioritize their immediate interests. The response, he argues, is not to abandon cooperation, but to reinvent it, adapting it to a more complex world. In this regard, David Sarquís’ essay, “Mexico and Latin America in International Relations Theory,” reasserts the region’s capacity to produce its own theoretical thought, beyond merely imitating Anglo-Saxon schools of thought. Dependency theory, peripheral structuralism, and decolonial perspectives are original contributions that offer a different lens through which to interpret international relations.

The geoeconomics of strategic minerals is another field in which global competition is manifesting itself. In his essay “Los minerales estratégicos,” Guillermo Gutiérrez Nieto unravels the struggle for control over resources such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earths, which are essential for the energy transition and the technology industry. China has turned these minerals into an instrument of power, while the United States and the European Union seek to diversify their supply chains. On this chessboard, Latin America is emerging as a key actor, but also as a contested territory.

The analysis of Argentine foreign policy under Javier Milei, conducted by María Elena Lorenzini and Nicolás Cavigliasso in “La política exterior de Javier Milei,” offers a fascinating case study of the tension between ideology and pragmatism. Although alignment with the United States is evident, the authors argue that it responds more to a logic of “libertarian lenses” than to the rational calculation of Carlos Escudé’s Peripheral Realism. The primacy of ideology over strategic prudence is a distinctive feature of this new global right.

A historical and long-term perspective is essential for understanding the present. In his analysis of the Salina Cruz refinery, Einer David Tah Ayala shows how the evolution of a key infrastructure project can be read as a mirror of the tensions among energy sovereignty, technological dependence, and regional development in Mexico. The history of the refinery, from its inauguration in 1979 to its current role in the Interoceanic Corridor (Mexico), reveals the limits of a development model that has failed to overcome dependence on fuel imports.

In the field of cultural diplomacy, Juan Sebastián Bautista Mena, in his essay “Distribución disciplinar y diferenciación regional en la diplomacia cultural mexicana (2018-2024),” offers a quantitative analysis of the cultural activities of Mexico’s Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE). His study reveals a marked concentration in North America and Europe, as well as a repertoire dominated by the visual and performing arts and cinema, suggesting a diplomatic practice guided more by institutional routines than by an explicit comprehensive strategy.

The Chronicles —“Crónicas”— section offers a look at significant events. Carla Martínez Machain and I recount the success of the 2025 AMEI-ISA Joint Conference in Huatulco, a milestone that we believe positioned Universidad del Mar as a center of internationalist thought, challenging center-periphery hierarchies in knowledge production. As for Carlos Uscanga and Jessica Flores Anzurez, they analyze the emerging communication strategies of Japan’s Digital Public Diplomacy in Mexico and demonstrate how social media have become key tools for projecting a positive country image. Finally, Mónica Ramos Flores documents the Russian Federation’s recognition of the Taliban regime, a pragmatic move that reflects Moscow’s efforts to maintain its influence in

Central Asia and combat common threats such as terrorism and drug trafficking.

In the Classical Authors section, Rosa Isabel Gaytán analyzes the figure of Hermila Galindo, a pioneer of Mexican foreign policy whose work linked women's suffrage, feminism, and the international doctrine of constitutionalism. Her analysis of *La Doctrina Carranza y el acercamiento indolatino* sheds light on a foundational moment in Mexican international thought. Meanwhile, Miguel Escobedo De la Torre, in "Hegelian Philosophy and the Problem of Instrumental Reason in International Relations," offers a profound philosophical reflection on Hegel's legacy in International Relations theory and its critique by the Frankfurt School, reminding us that instrumental reason can be as oppressive as brute force.

Something to notice, is that an important feature of this volume is that the sections of Essays ("Ensayos"), Classical Authors ("Clásicos"), and Chronicles underwent a rigorous double-blind peer-review process. This procedure forms part of the Yearbook's commitment to the academic quality of the works it publishes and seeks to ensure that contributions are evaluated according to academic criteria independently of the identity of their authors.

The volume is completed by other sections that serve equally important functions for a publication devoted to the study of global affairs. The Indicators section ("Indicadores") provides a quantitative overview of the state of the world, ranging from trends in GDP and inflation to human development and environmental performance indices. These data, cold but eloquent, complement and ground the theoretical analyses presented throughout the volume. The Bibliographic Comments ("Comentarios bibliográficos") and the Interviews ("Entrevistas") sections, which are of high quality—in particular, the conversation with Ambassador Francisca Elizabeth Méndez Escobar on the future of multilateralism—enrich the debate and offer firsthand perspectives on the challenges of global governance.

All in all, the AMAG editorial team considers that this volume offers an analytical mosaic that brings together theory and practice, history and current affairs, the global and the local. This diversity is, in our view, one of the Yearbook's strengths. A publication devoted to global affairs cannot remain detached from the plurality of perspectives existing in a world undergoing transformation.

We consider that with this volume, the Mexican Yearbook of Global Affairs continues to consolidate itself as a space for the analysis and discussion of international problems from Mexico, while also serving as a meeting point for debates that transcend the country and the region.

On behalf of the Yearbook's editorial team, we thank the authors who entrusted their work to be published in this space, as well as those who participated in its evaluation

and editing. Their work makes it possible for this publication to bring together, year after year, different ways of understanding the world. We hope that the pages that follow will contribute to keeping open a space for discussion about the changes that are redefining our international environment. ☘

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Dr. José Ricardo Villanueva Lira

Director

