

Introduction

After months of intense collaborative work, it's a privilege to proudly present the first Number of the Mexican Yearbook of Global Affairs (el Anuario Mexicano de Asuntos Globales or AMAG); a publication of the *Isidro Fabela* Institute for International Studies at la Universidad del Mar (UMAR), Campus Huatulco, Oaxaca, on the southern Pacific coast of Mexico.

In general, as an academic work, this yearbook has aimed to offer a concise analysis of the events, dynamics and international processes that we consider most significant on the world stage (due to the impact they have on current national and local realities). In particular, perhaps the yearbook's most essential principle is inclusion. Given the world's complexity, characterized by different languages, visions, philosophies and positions on the reality that we observe and experience, we also aimed to create a social-scientific forum where (without compromising on academic rigor) we include plural perspectives of interpretation and analysis from International Studies and other related disciplines. Our aim is to publish contributions from different latitudes that offer the added value of coming from direct observations of multiple environments. This explains and gives meaning to the fact that works from any country and in any language are welcome.

With this objective in mind, in the first few months of 2022, the philosophy and content of this yearbook were thought out, planned, designed and headed by the initiative of Dr. Modesto Seara Vázquez, an International Relations scholar and the rector of UMAR. The variety of perspectives sought by AMAG aims to reduce the English language monopoly in the academic-intellectual world; to reverse the one-way flow from north to south while going beyond these reductionist dichotomies, looking for new, more unifying and impartial ideas, without ideological or geographical centrism that favors one position over another and, therefore, obscures the value of other intellectual contributions. It's about giving voice to those contributions; offering a platform that helps spread thought in a more universal way. Upon achieving that, our task will be to evaluate all the works rigorously and impartially from an academic and inclusive standpoint.

To make this task possible, the yearbook will be available in paper and electronic copy (with free access) and with periodic circulation at a national and international level, guided by the principle of academic freedom where each author is completely responsible for their own content, thus adding to the task of achieving richness and analytical complementarity.

In line with this universal and representative vision, for the initial Editorial Board we have secured the participation, accompaniment and advice of academics from Germany, Argentina, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China-Taiwan, Colombia, South Korea, Spain, United States, India, Lebanon, Peru, Portugal, Tunisia and Mexico.

Regarding the yearbook's composition, Dr. Seara originally came up with a first structure divided into the following sections: Essays, Chronicles, Classic Authors, Indicators, Bibliographic Comments and Audiovisual Material. We later incorporated the Interview section at the behest of the editorial board and in time for the printing of this issue. We aim for each section to have its own personality and meaning: Essays will be in-depth contributions, coming from different parts of the world, representing the different ideas on world issues, thus achieving a truly international dimension. Chronicles examine analyses of the year's main events, objectively described and critically analyzed. In Classic Authors, we look at studies on a contemporary writer or one from another era. In Indicators, we aim to incorporate social, economic, military and environmental data at a global level that enable us to take the world's pulse and have a more precise idea of the complex social relations and, in turn, their relationship with the physical basis. On the other hand, Bibliographic Comments are more than descriptive reviews. They are comments on and critical analyses of recently published works on international issues or of interest to readers, which also help publicize these works. The Interview section will include the ideas (collected through semi-structured interviews) of academics or civil servants, men and women, whose perspectives are relevant to understanding the world situation. In Audiovisual Material we will include a selection of videos on various international topics that can be freely accessed on the INTERNET.

For this first edition of the yearbook, we welcome an enthusiastic and formidable number of 51 contributions: 31 essays, eight chronicles, two studies on classic authors, nine academic works commented on bibliographically and one interview. (The sections on indicators and audiovisual material were incorporated by the editorial committee). At this point, it needs to be pointed out that the studies (in each section) are ordered alphabetically by authors' surnames.

In the seven sections that make up the 2022 yearbook, readers will find topics as crucial as they are diverse: The importance of strategic thinking centers in International Relations such as the Mexican Council of International Affairs; the Pacific Alliance, world order, international structure, international society, cosmopolitanism, democracy in Africa, European geopolitics, the ineluctable issue of Russia's invasion of Ukraine from various approaches, the Coronavirus pandemic, the Middle East, the foreign policy of Mexico or Argentina, new forms of diplomacy, human rights, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños or CELAC), US-Mexico environmental relations, Mexico-Colombia relations, US-China relations, globalization and inequality, an interpretation of Libya as a failed state, gender and feminism, current trends in the production and consumption of illegal drugs in Mexico, the assassination of Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, the Mexican government's lawsuit against US armories, the Mexico-Pennsylvania relationship, the two main global crises: environmental and economic; the thought and contribution of authors such as Kant, Martha Finnemore and Hermila Galindo (the latter is in Audiovisual Material) or the conception of the discipline of International Relations by Kalevi Holsti (by way of interview). Readers will also find bibliographic comments on works published in Spain, the United States, Mexico, Colombia, France and England that deal with topics as complex as they are interesting. And finally, audiovisual files on the international situation, Chinese empires, war, USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement) or environmental issues such as coral reef damage and ocean acidification can also be accessed. Together, they form a set of classic, current and relevant global issues with an emphasis on the year 2022. They are kindly provided by the Oaxaca State University System (Sistema de Universidades Estatales de Oaxaca or SUNEI), la Universidad del Mar (UMAR) and the Mexican International Studies Association (la Asociación Mexicana de Asuntos Internacionales or AMEI).

Finally, I'd like to thank each of the academics who agreed to be part of the editorial board for their reliability, support, advice and perseverance from the beginning of this project: we appreciate them joining us from 17 countries on five continents (with their outstanding reputations and international prestige). I also express my gratitude to the senior academics who work with me on the yearbook project and who were originally called on by Dr. Seara: MSc (MIR) Isaac Flores Delgado who serves as Secretary-General; Dr. José Ricardo Villanueva Lira, MSc (MIR) Pedro González Olvera and MSc Marco Antonio Guadarrama Vega who make up the Editorial Committee. To the vice-rectors of UMAR, Dr. María del Rosario Enriquez Rosado, BSc José Luis Ramos Espinoza and MSc Ma. de los Ángeles Peralta Arias, we appreciate all the paperwork arranged and institutional support given. To the UMAR's Language Department for their valuable assistance in reviewing and translating some material. Especially MA Rowena Tejido Diaz, MA Celia Elisabeth Martyniak, MA Sandrine Laurence Miralles and BSc Yalin Zhang. A special mention to Design Engineer Miguel Ángel García Reyes for his work and commitment as general illustrator and to BSc Alejandra Hernández Hernández, private secretary of the Rector, for the invaluable help provided from the Rector's office.

All of us who form part of this Mexican Yearbook of Global Affairs team dedicate with personal (and professional) affection this first (2022) issue to the memory of Dr. Seara, who had a special and genuine interest in seriously starting this project, which he conceived as a means of enabling communication between different cultures and offering an opportunity to share academic values and ideas for all those participating.

Bahías de Huatulco, Oaxaca. January 9th, 2023

Dr. Alberto Lozano Vázquez

Director