

## EDITOR'S NOTE

2020 was a completely atypical year in international relations, in which a unique situation unveiled and accelerated an ongoing structural change. This twofold reality is expressed in the 18th edition of *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations* in a Dossier on *The World-System: Theory and Geopolitics*, preceded by a set of reflections written by experts, the *Post-Trump Diplomacy Outlook*. The latter is part of a new regular segment of *Austral*, entitled *NERINT Strategic Analysis*.

It contains brief analyses on current and relevant international events, not addressed in the articles, and written by experts. Two analyses address issues from the Russian “near abroad”: the geopolitics underlying Belarus’ tumultuous elections and the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. The third note addresses the Strategic Lessons of World War II on its 75th anniversary, establishing links with current developments in the international scene.

The multiple crises that have tensioned the world-system for over a decade, originated with the subprime crisis and developments such as the Arab Spring and the Sino American rivalry, were intensified by Donald Trump’s critical stance towards globalisation and overflowed by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, the Dossier analyses the evolution of the world-system, its theorists, the role of the BRICS, the relationship between Geopolitics and Law and, finally, the alternation between the United States and China at the systemic level.

The Articles section addresses new thematic areas, such as the Jihad gender issue, problems linked to state building in Timor, maritime insecurity in the South Atlantic (from an African perspective), the role of drones for American Grand Strategy, and South American competitive-cooperative triangular relations. Finally, another non-regular segment, *Diplomatic Testimony*, brings a report by the renowned Ambassador Pedro Motta Pinto Coelho on two cases of Brazilian multilateral diplomacy: trade and disarmament.

The geographical scope of authors continues to expand, with scholarly contributions from Angola, New Zealand, Nigeria, Malaysia and Indonesia, in addition to academics from several universities in Brazil. 2020 was a particularly difficult year, with closed institutions and dispersed research

groups working remotely. In this sense, we would like to thank the authors, peer reviewers and the entire team of researchers working at the *Brazilian Centre for Strategy & International Relations (NERINT)* and *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations*, for collaborating so that the journal maintained its periodicity and even expanded in quality. In 2021, *Austral* enters its tenth year, with a renewed editorial project.

\*\*\*

This publication was possible thanks to the Research Office at UFRGS through the Support Program for Journal Editing (PAEP), as well as the entire team of editors and translators, in particular Edition Assistants Magnus Kenji Hiraiwa and Guilherme Geremias da Conceição, with the collaboration of Guilherme Thudium, Luana Margarete Geiger, Eduardo Secchi, Gabriela Ruchel, Maria Gabriela Vieira, Marina Felisberti e Felipe Werner Samuel. Once again, we are grateful to Prof. Dr. Cristina Soreanu Pecequilo for diligent review of translations. The teamwork of NERINT/UFRGS researchers has allowed us to maintain the quality and regularity of *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations*.

**Disclaimer:** *AUSTRAL* prioritises British English as the standard variety of the English written language. Some English translations, however, may be written under the American English dialect.