

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In its twentieth edition, *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations* celebrates its tenth anniversary. Initially, there is a balance of the activities of the Journal, consolidated with a focus on South-South Academic Cooperation and an independent posture. Below is a sequence of four articles that analyse aspects of China's global projection, two of which also include Russia, at a time when the Biden administration exerts even greater pressure on both countries than that of former President Trump. The next seven articles address Defence and International Security Studies, with texts that provide an academic review of Security Studies, Naval Power, export of defence products, the role of NATO, Obama's policy towards the Middle East and North Africa, and on the role of the UN in the fight against terrorism in West Africa. It ends with an additional updated text on the South African political crisis.

Following the structure implemented in 2020, there are the texts that integrate the *NERINT Strategic Analysis* segment. The main event of the semestre (and of the year 2021), the fumbling North American withdrawal from Afghanistan and the control of the country by the Taliban, is covered in three analyses that describe not only the situation, but also a balance of 43 years of wars and a qualified study on the drug trafficking problem. The meaning of the semestre's electoral processes is explored in three analyses: Germany and Scandinavia, with a tenuous victory of the left, and Uzbekistan, with the affirmation of a pro-Western government. Finally, an analysis on the AUKUS Agreement and Iran's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation in Organisation (SCO) is accompanied by another on the situation in North Korea, which has as a backdrop the containment of China by the Biden administration.

In time: recent events in Kazakhstan, it seems, constitute yet another Colour Revolution of Regime Change. It could become a fatal blow to the New Silk Road initiative and the Eurasian integration of the SCO if the deployment of a Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) peacekeeping force does not reverse the situation. While tensions were orchestrated in Ukraine and Taiwan, the "spontaneous" explosion took place at the heart of Eurasia. The problem is that Kazakhstan has strategic and geopolitical importance on a global scale in Brzezinski's Grand Chessboard.

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