

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The 2022 year was marked by the protracted Russo-Ukrainian military conflict, which had enormous and multiple impacts worldwide. Few analysts expected a prolonged war, with such oscillating objectives, intensity, and unpredictable outcomes. The outbreak of a conventional confrontation between industrial countries in the heart of Europe represents a turning point for international security in the post-Cold War era. Interestingly, Europe appears to be the most affected and damaged region. The rupture of economic ties between the European Union, and especially Germany, with Moscow, had the economic and strategic effect desired by Washington. Now, Brussels complains about Biden's policy of economic incentives to US companies as "unfair competition".

In Brazil, we had a tumultuous post-election environment that resembled the US after the defeat of Donald Trump. And the return of Luís Inácio "Lula" da Silva to a third term has been signalled as the possible revival of the "active and affirmative" diplomacy of former chancellor Celso Amorim – now a presidential advisor for international policy, like Marco Aurélio Garcia in the past. However, what few analysts and activists took into account is the dimension of the general economic crisis and the dangerous cleavage and deepening of diplomatic-military tensions. Moreover, with the defeat of Trump, the Bolsonaro government modified its diplomatic priorities in April 2021, resuming cooperating with BRICS countries while relations with the newly elected Biden administration had become a problem. In this 2022 previous context, a pragmatic move of survival, most likely, which included a presidential visit to Moscow a few days before the invasion of Ukraine and the signing of several agreements of which mass media gave little information.

For obvious reasons, Washington, and the capitals of Western Europe, as well as some of the major Brazilian and international media, showed concern about the 2022 elections in Brazil. The defence of the electoral system and the preference for the oppositionist platform were assertive. Thus, the broad coalition needed to govern and such international support, which calls for Brazil to align within a framework of criticism against the BRICS and its members, makes the ability to reissue the Brazilian diplomacy of the first decade of the 21st century unlikely. 2023 will be a very difficult year, as divisions in the country and in the world are deepening.

This issue features articles by academics from Brazil, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, and Jordan. The themes are relevant and unpublished in Brazil. The first paper addresses the so-called “Putin Doctrine” in a very objective way, as a broad national security strategy, and the second addresses the economic and technological dimensions of the acquisition of Gripen fighter jets by the Brazilian Air Force. A second block of articles tackles Middle Eastern issues: the security dimension of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum, US policy towards underestimated Jordan and an accurate analysis of post-revolutionary Iran’s foreign policy at the crossroads of supranationalism and of sovereignty. Finally, the last three articles address themes that refer to Asia: the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean, the role of Indian Ocean maritime diplomacy for Pakistan, and ASEAN legal mechanisms in tackling non-traditional security challenges in the region.

The perspective of authors from the Geopolitical South enriches the academic and strategic perception regarding these analysed issues, thus materialising the founding objectives of *AUSTRAL: Brazilian Journal of Strategy and International Relations*. This is particularly important at a time when Cold War-era narratives are resurfacing, which identify current tensions as a confrontation between the politically correct “International Community” of Western Liberal Democracies and populist-authoritarian “deviant” nations. A reissue of the “Free World” against the “Totalitarianism” of the 1950s, which absolutely cannot explain the origin of the current fractures, caused by the shock waves of the 2008 financial crisis and Covid-19. In such a context, the role of the academy becomes ever more fundamental for the analysis of what Emmanuel Todd considers as the first movements of a Third World War.

Finally, as of this issue, NERINT Strategic Analysis will only be available in Portuguese at [ufrgs.br/nerint](http://ufrgs.br/nerint).

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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 Assistant Editor Guilherme Thudium, Editorial Assistants Igor Estima Sardo and Felipe Samuel Werner, with the collaboration of Marina Felisberti, Gabriela Ruchel, Magnus Kenji Hiraiwa and João Pedro Lopes Gonçalves. As usual, we would like to thank Professor Cristina Soreanu Pecequilo for reviewing the translations, as well as our qualified reviewers. The teamwork of NERINT/UFRGS researchers has

allowed us to maintain the regularity and quality of AUSTRAL.

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