

PRESENTATION: PERSPECTIVES FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA

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The papers that compose this special dossier were developed from the deepening of discussions about the contemporary outlook on security and defence in South America, as part of the interinstitutional project “Regional and International Security and Defence Scenarios: A Civil-Military Approach”, contemplated by the “Pró-Defesa 031/2013” notice and published in a partnership between the Ministry of Defence and CAPES. This project was developed over the course of five years (2013-2018) and had the participation, under the coordination of Professor Rafael Villa, of members from the Graduate Programs of the Political Science Department and the Institute of International Relations of the University of São Paulo, the Graduate Program in International Relations of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), the Graduate Program in Political Science of the Federal Fluminense University (UFF), the Graduate Program in Political Science of the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), the Graduate Program in Maritime Studies of the Naval War School (EGN) and the Graduate Program in Military Sciences of the School of Command and General Staff of the Brazilian Army (ECEME). We thank the “Pró-Defesa” CAPES/Ministry of Defense Program (Edital 2013) for the financial support that made it possible to translate and publish this Special Dossier in English.

The reflection on the absence of regional answers to particular problems on Security and Defence started to change in recent years, as we observe that Brazil has adopted more incisive Security and Defence policies. Thus, the creation of the Council of South American Defence (CDS) can be seen as an instrument for collective Defence capable of offering answers to specific re-

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gional problems. This is consistent to the regional scenarios that South America, and specially Brazil, must face in its Security and Defence policies for the next decades to come. And the answers to those challenges must involve the recovery of South American strategic action around scenarios of recent action as a permanent objective.

This objective is consistent with a change that can be observed in the academic and scientific segment of the civil society, which is, the change regarding the idea that the studies and practices on the thematic of Defence are tasks that competes only to the military sector. Defence, understood as a political dimension, is a problematic of both state and social nature, and, therefore, must involve different branches of society and the state. In other words, the collective effort of understanding and acting on matters related to Security and Defence must clearly involve a cooperative endeavor of both civilian and military institutions, and in the specific case to which this proposition is referred, the joint effort of superior education institutions of the civil sector and the military sector that can collaborate not only to evaluate the state of art of Security and Defence studies, but also to generate the human resources needed to propel the changes that this state of art requires.

The papers presented here prioritize the dynamics and challenges associated with the regional dimension of Security and Defence. While recognizing the existence of a set of regional action scenarios that are affected by alterations in the structure of international relations, be that in terms of actors or practices, these researches seek to offer an outlook that reveals patterns, tendencies and potentialities of conflict and cooperation in the regional sphere and, we hope, can contribute to identify pathways for Security and Defence policies for the countries involved for the coming years. The somewhat uncontroversial acceptance by the academia and decisions-makers on the relevance of particular dynamics in the regional level in creating opportunities or constraints for the performance of their countries exempts long justifications in order to understand it as the background of this research. However, it is important to reinforce the perception that the challenges imposed by the growing processes of interdependence and transnationalization of subjects in the regional – and international – agenda require further understanding, specially the new elements aggregated to these phenomena and the way they interact with existent practices and structures, in order to evaluate its potential impacts on security and defence scenarios for the coming decades.

With this purpose, the papers presented in this issue articulate eight lines of research designed in the project that brief the strategic performance of state actors in the fields of security and regional defence. In particular, the debate about a new security architecture of the inter-american system, which

is a result of the necessity to adjust the hemispheric institutional framework in order to face non-state nature threats such as drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking, natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, money laundering, terrorism, among others. In this context, the concept of multi-dimensional security was incorporated and new roles were delineated to the Armed Forces, which evidenced some divergences among South American countries and the United States on the matter of collaboration and coordination of the Armed Forces and the National Police when it comes to facing problems such as drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime. Moreover, the role played by Brazil in this process and the divergences correlated to the “Global War on Terror” as elaborated by the central powers complement the complex framework that make up the regional relations.

In this way, while seeking to map aspects of the broad scale of phenomena that make up the regional sphere, this dossier approaches distinct strands of Security and Defence within three particular themes: (a) regional cooperation; (b) domestic dynamics within countries in light of the regional sphere; and (c) Defence policies and their articulation within regional processes and dynamics. Regarding regional cooperation, Graciela Pagliari’s paper discusses the role of the Council of South American Defence of UNASUR as a guarantor of mutual security measures, and Juliana Viggiano investigates the (incipient) initiatives to think about cooperation and public security from a regional perspective in light of the South American Council on Citizen Security, Justice and Coordination of Actions against Transnational Organized Crime of UNASUR. From a less evident perspective, Francisco Alves de Almeida and Ricardo Pereira Cabral seek to build a comparative methodology capable of classifying the relative power of the Navy, indirectly suggesting the cooperation potential of the South American Navies.

Specifically aimed at understanding the domestic dynamics of South American countries, Adriana Marques’ paper evaluates the Brazilian Armed Forces performance in peacekeeping missions and its repercussions, Marcial Suarez addresses the antiterrorism policies adopted in Brazil, and Selma Gonzales and Lucas Portela analyse the cybernetic security and defence policies in Argentina, Brazil and Colombia and the possible links among them in the context of two regional forums: the Organisation of American States (OEA) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

Finally, the other studies that compose this dossier deal with the implications and characteristics of domestic and regional defence policies by exploring its many dimensions. Rafael Villa deepens the discussion on the motivations and interpretations regarding the restructuring of the Armed Forces of the countries in the region, questioning the widespread idea in the

current literature that points to the existence of two security subsystems in South America. Ricardo Borges offers a comparative evaluation on the impact of political changes in some countries in the region and their relation with military equipment purchases, and Sabrina Medeiros and William Moreira seek to demonstrate the potential projection impact of the South American Industrial Defence Base through the involvement of Brazil with the NATO Cataloging System. Marcos Valle, by its turn, from a more traditional point of view of defence policies, explores possible repercussions of the extra-continental military presence in the region for Brazilian defence interests in South America.

The broad range of issues addressed here indicate the abundance of the research agenda in regional Security and Defence in South America, and, in general terms, the existence of many convergences – real or potential – among perspectives, structures and policies by the countries in the region. With caution and without being carried away by optimism, the works compiled in this dossier reveal practices that indicate a form of validation of the regional dimension by the South American countries as a catalyst for dynamics that can offer political answers to common problems. They also suggest the existence of considerable hindrances of political, bureaucratic and conceptual nature, to mention the most evident ones, reflected in different degrees of involvement by these countries when it comes to the Security and Defence agenda.

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