

EDITOR'S NOTE

In a period of multiple international crises, the analytical opportunities are unexpectedly increased. The past exasperates its ways to avoid being overruled by new tendencies, which are still wavering and, perhaps, reversible. Accommodating and repetitive thinking, ritualised through politically correct presentations in conventional seminars, ebbs and gives way to innovative reflection. Edward H. Carr wrote *The Twenty Years' Crisis* precisely in 1939, innovating the reflection in International Relations. Today, when US President Donald Trump meets up with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, actually stepping on both sides of the Korean border in Panmunjom, what we see is the silence of analysts and the embarrassment of journalists. It is necessary that veterans such as Henry Kissinger provide an explanation to what is going on, so that the dialectical relation between the harsh reality and surrealism makes sense.

It is important to note that during times of crisis, new voices emerge and new connections are established, as observed on this issue of *AUSTRAL*, which celebrates its eighth year of existence alongside the twentieth anniversary of the Brazilian Centre for Strategy and International Relations (NER-INT). Thus, this is a commemorative edition. Alongside Brazilian authors, we find others from Portugal, Spain, Ecuador, Colombia, Cuba, Romania, Nigeria and Australia. In the year that also marks the centenary of International Relations as a field of study, which formally emerged from the establishment of the International Relations Chair in Aberystwyth, Wales, in 1919, we start this number of *AUSTRAL* with an article on the birth of IR as a social science, whose origins and conceptions are inherently Western and, more precisely, Anglo-American. Hence the latent need to also produce specialised knowledge in the area outside its epicentre. Thus, following a first block of theoretical articles, the subsequent articles prioritise the three major continents of the South, as traditionally seen in our publication: Asia (which includes the Middle East), Africa and Latin America, with an emphasis on international security and defence issues related to the developing countries that make up these geographic spaces.

From the next issue onwards, Professor Marco Cepik will be appointed Editor-in-Chief of *AUSTRAL: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations*, with Professor Leonardo Granato serving as Deputy Editor and Pro-

fessor Paulo Fagundes Visentini as senior member of the renewed Editorial Board. This institutional change, within a team that has always worked collectively, does not imply any reorientation in the editorial line. Nevertheless, the growing flow of papers makes evaluation more demanding and deadlines longer. There is also an increasing call for the publication of dossiers containing results of collective research, which will be accepted according to the quality and the existing demand. A positive “problem” resulting from an editorial policy that did not attain itself to the faltering criteria of government academic agencies. The main objective has always been to connect authors and nations through innovative thinking in a strongly institutional area such as International Relations.

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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.*