REVIEW OF "25 ANOS DE COOPERAÇÃO EM DEFESA NA CPLP", BY KAMILLA RAQUEL RIZZI AND LUÍS MANUEL BRÁS BERNARDINO[1]

Nathaly Xavier Schutz[2]
Irina Lima Martínez[3]

The relationship between Portuguese-speaking countries is a frequent object of analysis in research and works in the field of Political Science and International Relations in the Brazilian academia. Rizzi and Bernardino innovate, however, by taking a more specific look at the field of defense. Reflecting a long history of studies on defense and cooperation in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), the work presented here is the result of joint work between the authors and was supported by the Center for Strategic Analysis of the CPLP, in recognition of the reference and importance of this research.

The Community of Portuguese Language Countries is a cooperation space where nine states are united by a common attribute: the use of the same language by their nationals. It can be evaluated as an atypical organization because the factor that unites and gives rise to it is uncommon in the consolidation of organizations of this nature: the language and the Lusophone identity.

1 Rizzi, Kamilla Raquel, and Luís Manuel Brás Bernadino. 2023. *25 Anos de Cooperação em Defesa na CPLP*. Lisbon: Mercado de Letras Editores, Lda.

2 Campus Santana do Livramento, Universidade Federal do Pampa. Santana do Livramento, Brazil. E-mail: nathalyschutz@unipampa.edu.br. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8041-7206.

3 Department of Economy and International Relations, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria. Santa Maria, Brazil. E-mail: irina.martinez@acad.ufsm.br. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0005-3555-7401.

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Notoriously, the first emergence of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries was not the defense aspect and this can be clearly seen when we look at the founding documents of the CPLP. As already stated in the preface to this vast work, the initial cooperation prioritized the economic, social, cultural, legal and technical-scientific spheres. However, twenty-five years have passed since the beginning of Defense Cooperation within the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. With this in mind, Rizzi and Bernardino take a detailed look at this quarter of a century of defense cooperation. This book is structured in three theoretical chapters in which defense cooperation is discussed within the CPLP with excellence — a topic that is little explored in academic research involving this organization.

The core of the emergence of defense cooperation within the CPLP revolves around the interest of its member countries in starting an agenda that emerges from the need for joint, strategic thinking, cooperation and mutual assistance. In this way, they can establish a consolidated presence in the region's strategic surroundings and space — especially maritime space — in order to position themselves in the face of the region's new circumstances.

In the first chapter, the authors go through the basic aspects of its foundation and the foundations for achieving the Defense Cooperation within the organization. They begin by identifying the birth of the CPLP in 1996 and tracing its origins. They go through historical aspects such as the end of bipolarity, the process of globalization and the interest of states in joining international and regional organizations as events that served as basis for the genesis of this organization. This chapter also analyzes the paths that have been taken to achieve defense cooperation within the Community, starting with the "founding" Lisbon Summit of 1996 and evaluates throughout the chapter how the defense variable has advanced in these twenty-five years, going through four phases: i) the creation phase; ii) the construction phase; iii) the consolidation phase and iv) the expansion phase.

In the second chapter, the authors focus on analyzing how each of the member countries contributed to Defense Cooperation within the Community. This chapter proves to be very valuable because, by focusing on a country-by-country analysis, the authors present the contributions in a vehemently considered and precise manner.

In the third chapter, Rizzi and Bernardino analyze the future paths of Defense Cooperation within the CPLP, analyzing and predicting the possibilities, potentials and challenges intrinsic to this cooperation.

In addition to the unique theoretical debate woven by the authors in the three chapters, it should be noted that the construction and organization of the book contains an abundance of visual resources since it is fully illus-

trated. This care is also evident on pages 226-253, which contain a section of photographs of the personalities who have contributed to the construction of the Defense component in the CPLP.

Perhaps one of the most praiseworthy aspects of this work (apart from the in-depth and pertinent theoretical analysis proposed by the authors) are the external collaborations that the book contains within its scope. These are visible i) in the opening note written by Zacarias da Costa, Executive Secretary of the CPLP; ii) in the evocative note by José Maria Pereira Neves, President of the Republic of Cape Verde; iii) in the foreword by Armindo Alcides Garcia Sá Nogueira Miranda, Colonel of the Armed Forces of Cape Verde and Director of the Center for Strategic Analysis of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CAE/CPLP) and Francisco Evandro Rodrigues Camelo, Captain of the Brazilian Naval War College and Director of CAE/CPLP (2019-2022). This demonstrates the authors' concern to incorporate actors from different spaces into the dialogue on this noble subject: heads of state and heads of the very organization that is the subject of this study. It is essential that there is this dialogue between sectors that go beyond the academic sphere so that a rich construction can be woven with the contribution of political actors and civil society itself.

The work is undoubtedly of immeasurable value to the Community of Portuguese Language Countries and to the Academy of African Studies and International Relations. Demanding is the bibliography that compiles in its scope such a complete and comprehensive Defense Cooperation within the CPLP, from its genesis to 2023. Furthermore, with regard to this last aspect, it should be noted that the authors have joined forces to compile in the text's annexes an extensive and in-depth list of thirty-five documents that can be read as key pieces for evaluating the twenty-five years of defense cooperation within the CPLP, thus compiling the main basic documents for the reader to delve into them in more depth.

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