

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Special Dossier: Security and Defence in South America

It is with great satisfaction that we bring to the public the Special Dossier *Security and Defence in South America*, coordinated by professors Rafael Villa and Juliana Viggiano, renowned academics in the field of Defence Studies. This is the result of an extensive research carried out in the framework of CAPES' "Pró-Defesa" Notice by a group of researchers led by Professor Villa, composing a set of ten articles and complemented by two others of similar theme that were aggregated by the Editorial Board of *AUSTRAL: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations*.

Due to Brazil's strategic position vis-a-vis its regional environment (which also encompasses the South Atlantic ocean), the internal political instability of the states of the region and the so-called non-traditional threats, the challenge of South American integration is central to Brazil's long term strategy. In this sense, one of NERINT's research proposals, linked to the line of research "Brazil's Grand Strategy for the 21st Century", seeks precisely to analyze the political, economic and security opportunities and challenges in the South American strategic sphere.

Thus, this Special Edition of *AUSTRAL: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations* comes up against the backdrop of a series of setbacks that these processes have been experiencing in recent times. Far from being overtaken by recent events, the Dossier describes and analyzes, with theoretical and methodological rigor, the complex process of building regional security cooperation in South America. Reflexes of this kind occur periodically, but the political reality also eventually creates conditions for the resumption of similar projects in relatively short periods of time.

The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Council of South American Defence (CDS), despite their weaknesses and without ideological appropriations, have promoted an institutional framework that is essential to Brazil's diplomatic and defence policies. Recent redefinitions, such as the abandonment of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Paraguay, however, put the organization at risk of obsolescence, fundamentally damaging any perspective of deepening cooperation in the area of Defence.

The primordial objectives of the CDS were the gathering and regionalization of consensus on Security and Defence in South America through three main foundations: dialogue, cooperation and political concertation. As explained by Prof. Rafael Villa during the 10th Meeting of the Brazilian Association of Defence Studies (ABED), held in September 2018 at the University of São Paulo (USP), three current dynamics profoundly alter this process of cooperation in the continent: (1) the “Venezuela factor” and the spillover of the Venezuelan economic, political and social crises; (2) the “Colombia factor”, which suspended its participation in the organization and joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a “global partner”; and (3) the “Mercosur factor”, where most countries experienced the end of the “pink wave” and the return of neoliberal governments, economic crises and intense polarization and judicialization of politics. All four of its current full member-states suspended their participation in UNASUR in April 2018.

The papers that compose this Dossier cover a wide range of topics, such as the tabulation of South American navies, the expenditures of the local Armed Forces, regional cooperation in public security and current Brazilian policies in light of terrorist threats. The direct military presence of European powers in the region (French Guiana and Malvinas), the military modernization in South America and the role of Russia, China and South Korea are discussed next. Concluding the Dossier, the mobilization of the Industrial Defence Base in South America, the geopolitics of South American cyber space and the civil-military relationship in the ambit of the Peacekeeping Missions are also discussed by the authors of the Dossier, specialists of several Brazilian institutions. Finally, an article on Brazil's Defence Industry and an interesting comparison between Costa Rica and Ecuador regarding the perception of external threat were added to this thematic edition.

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# 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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