

EDITOR'S NOTE

Paulo Fagundes Visentini¹

Brazil's foreign policy has achieved since the beginning of the 21st century, a truly global presence, which exceeded both qualitatively and quantitatively the major advances of the Independent Foreign Policy (1961-64) and the noteworthy moments of the military regime (1964-85), such as the Responsible Pragmatism and the Universalism. Quantitatively, Brazilian diplomacy has made itself present, in traditional regions and partners, in small African, Asian and Arab nations, in the former Soviet republics and even in the distant islands of the Pacific Ocean. The critical role played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Itamaraty*) and other governmental agencies in this process must be highlighted.

From the qualitative point of view, such presence has gained remarkable political, economic and programmatic intensity with the "active, assertive and propositional" participation in important international *fora* and multilateral organizations. Among them the creation of the IBSA Dialogue Forum (India, Brazil and South Africa) and of the Commercial G-20, the participation in the BRICS, in the Financial G-20, as well as in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations (UN). This diplomatic breakthrough was accompanied by global expansion and by the growth of Brazilian economy, which exceeded the GDP of several OECD countries.

Brazil received the status of Strategic Partner from the European Union and has created the same bond with emerging powers like China, India, South Africa and other important nations. South-American integration, with Mercosur and UNASUR, advanced steadily, and even with extra-regional initiatives such as the Africa-South America Summit and the South America-Arab Countries Summit . South-South cooperation was another axis of Brazilian diplomacy, with strong presence in Africa (continent to which Lula, then President, made 11 trips, visiting 29 nations) and Asia. By the way, the projection and world prestige of former President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva, during his two terms, represents an unprecedented element in Brazilian diplomacy.

¹ Ph.D. Coordinator of the International Strategic Studies Doctoral Program and International Relations professor at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, (UFRGS), Brazil. (paulovi@ufrgs.br)

Even though such advances have been addressed abroad and in several national scientific journals, we still lacked a bilingual (Portuguese or Spanish and English) vehicle, focused exclusively on the analysis of such performance. At the same time, an instrument was needed to put us in direct contact with other think-tanks in developing countries, with which we have established high level contacts in recent years. Finally, with the academics and institutions in the North that think critically about the intense transformations that the world system is undergoing.

Thus, since the creation of NERINT (Brazilian Centre of Strategy and International Relations), in 1999, the research team planned the creation of a scientific journal to disclose their researches and views and to establish a dialogue with scholars from other nations and within the Brazilian diplomatic corps. Hence, contacts were made over the years in the country and abroad. This journal should reflect the perspective of the developing world, the "South", and now this old dream becomes reality, born of a long, careful and thoughtful preparation.

In this perspective, we are presenting to the Brazilian and foreign audience AUSTRAL, *Brazilian Journal of Strategy and International Relations*, an initiative of the International Strategic Studies Doctoral Program (PPGEEI) and the Brazilian Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies (NERINT) of the Latin American Institute for Advanced Studies (ILEA), from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre. Austral means South in Portuguese, Spanish and English. The Journal has biannual frequency, is available in electronic (www.ufrgs.br/austral) and printed format and is an offshoot of another successful initiative, the bimonthly Journal *Conjuntura Austral* (www.ufrgs.br/ConjunturaAustral).

It is an essentially academic publication dedicated to international political and economic topics, with emphasis on developing countries' diplomacy, which usually receive limited or ethnocentric attention from major international journals. The main focus of the publication are South-South relations, security issues, economic, political and diplomatic development in emerging nations and their relations with the traditional powers in a context of crisis and transition of the international order. The Editorial Board includes reputed academics from all continents, specialized in different subjects, and the Journal is open to contributions from all those who wish to join this analysis effort of Brazilian foreign policy and of the transformation of the international system.

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Paulo Fagundes Visentini
Editor

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