

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Paulo Visentini<sup>1</sup>

### Geopolitics of the South and tension in Defense

In an environment of increasing uncertainty, new or changing centers of tension regarding Defense have been emerging throughout the world. The Trump administration has taken a series of baffling initiatives, accompanied by abrupt changes to course shortly afterwards, as seen on the Korean peninsula. On the other hand, the fluidity of political life in Europe also reinforces this trend. Russia and China react and take stands, while the Middle Eastern conflict zone changes. There is a new arms race and there are threats that lead to the militarization and to the creation of defensive strategies in several nations.

Russia announces the manufacturing of new missiles undetectable by existing anti-missile systems. China adopts institutional changes in benefit of the Xi Jinping government, strengthening its position. The Turkish operation in the Kurdish areas of Syria shows the emergence of a new scenario of uncertainty in the long civil war, while Saudi Arabia has a more prominent role which is difficult to predict. Even the most distant regions like Africa and South America have felt the shockwaves, generating reactions and new stances.

In its issue number 12, Austral receives contributions from renowned researchers from four continents. They analyze particular aspects of tensions in the Middle East, Africa and South America. In a first set of articles, the character of the so-called Islamic State and the conflict situation in Iraq and Syria, as well as the geopolitics of energy in the Indian Ocean, which affect the whole region. Then, the situation of President Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, the Chinese presence in Cape Verde, the British strategy in the South Atlantic, and the current state of affairs of Lusophony make up a second thematic block.

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<sup>1</sup> Editor, Full Professor of International Relations at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and Coordinator of the Brazilian Centre for Strategy & International Relations (NERINT). E-mail: paulovi@ufrgs.br.

Finally, regarding Brazil itself and its South American neighboring region, articles analyze the relationship between development, security, and Foreign Policy and Brazilian Foreign and Defense Policy during the administrations of Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff, the Defense policy of Argentinean President Macri, and finally the Regional Security Complex from the perspective of the South American Defense Council.

With all these studies, *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy and International Relations* expands and strengthens its worldwide network of collaborators and readers. And it maintains its characteristic of critical and pluralistic analyses, which are not incompatible. It is also important to notice our close and growing collaboration with scholars from the area of international security, both from academia and from military centers in Brazil.

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