

Editorial / Editorial

This thematic edition was conceived with the purpose of discussing the economic, political, social, and military processes of Southern African nations, from the last quarter of the 20th century to today, as well as analysing its external, regional, and international relations. The debates presented herein give continuity to considerations previously addressed in past editions of the *World Tensions* journal in regard to the realities of Africa.

Southern Africa, which is made up of over a dozen countries, is bordered by the Indian ocean to the east, and the Atlantic to the west. Due to its strategic location, it has been the target of, and influenced by, the capitalist and socialist blocs of the Cold War. As such, it was the continent's last region to free itself from European colonisation, having experienced successful wars by popular forces that fought for the independence of their territories and peoples.

Its countries and nations have experimented with distinct processes of integration and disintegration. These processes have left their marks in the region's identities, peoples, societies, and States, in addition to influencing their national and international trajectories. The apartheid system in South Africa and the existence of white minority segregationist regimes in current Zimbabwe and Namibia are marks of this period, as well as socialist revolutions in Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique.

A proxy war between the South African apartheid hegemony and its connections to white regimes and the socialist regimes of Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique became evident. The creation of regional alliances such as the Frontline States (FLS), the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and under a different perspective, the Constellation of Southern

African States (CONSAS), proposed by the Botha Government, were facets of this conflict.

After their Independence in 1975, Angola and Mozambique, for example, involved themselves in fratricidal wars, which relied on an “external hand” in support of national revolutions and counterrevolutionary actions of nationalist rebel movements, in the context of the Cold War.

In the beginning of the 1990s, systematic changes took place in both the world and Southern Africa: the Washington Consensus, crisis of the European socialist bloc, the fall of the Wall of Berlin, the dismantling of the apartheid system, the abandonment of the socialist development approach by the regional States, and the peace accords for the end of the civil wars in Angola and Mozambique. Such transitions contributed to the emergence of new national and regional agendas.

This edition’s articles reflect the visions and perspectives of Brazilian and African authors and researchers with different interests and focuses regarding Africa, which range from regional movements to nationalist governments, conflicts, armed forces, and public policies.

We begin with the research conducted by Kelly Meira, master’s in political science by the Federal University of Minas Gerais, which discusses the strategies adopted by the Frontline States between 1975 and 1980. The victorious regionalist movement arose with the goal of facing the segregationist regimes of Southern Africa, especially South Africa’s apartheid.

Next, Murilo Costa, a young researcher currently in Portugal concluding his post-doctorate, provides us with a relevant analysis of post-apartheid South Africa, from the concept of human security and its defence policy. The scholar presents a shift in the role of the South African armed forces by way of an institutional bureaucratic transition and participation in UN and African Union peacekeeping missions, putting human security as a priority. On the other hand, Maria Oliveira e Renata Bichir, in her article *National and International Dynamics of South African Child Support Grant*, verifies the reach of post-apartheid South Africa’s income transference programme, in the perspective of both national and international

social protection. The paper represents an attempt of comprehension of the implementation of a public policy deriving from a country from the global South.

Due to an abundance of natural resources, especially mineral resources, and a favourable location, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been the target of international greed. The innumerable conflicts in Congolese territory since its brutal colonisation, ranging from post-independence to redemocratisation, are the subjects of inquiry by Carina Gouvêa, Pedro Castelo Branco, and Eduardo da Silva Júnior. The researchers examine UN interventions in the country and to what extent these successive missions contributed to the State's democratisation.

We proceed with two articles that remember the anticolonial fight in Mozambique and the dynamic of building the national State. Ercílio Langa analyses the Guebuza government, using the theory of rent-seeking as reference. The professor from the University for International Integration of the Afro-Brazilian Lusophony shows how a nationalistic government with ideals of the eradication of poverty has degenerated in the pursuit of income in its domestic and international plan. It adopted an extractive economic model that was dependent on foreign aid, in which the personal businesses of the president and the republic mixed with state interests. *Government Planning: Mozambique and Brazil in Focus* constitutes a collective work of students and faculty of the State University of Ceará that looks at public policies. José Cisne, Catarina Maquile, Guirino Nhatave, and Ana Thaís Cisne have developed a comparative study in their countries on governmental planning and their technical-political instruments. The authors circumscribe the contexts in which these plannings have arisen from the redefinition of the role of the State, as well as the transformation in public administrations and those imposed by the international context, in the background of the third wave of democratisations, of which both states are a part.

To understand how the African continent was strategically envisioned by Brazilian military during the 21st century is the theme approached by our last article. Camille Amorim, Vinicius Mallman, and Bruna Zeca, from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul,

bring us a critical evaluation of activities developed by members of the Army and Navy academies, pointing out divergences and distinct foci in their interpretations of the continent.

We wish you a pleasant reading!