

Editorial / Editorial

Foreign policy studies, a transdisciplinary field with deep roots in Political Science and in constant dialogue with the subareas of International Politics and Public Policies, forms a considerable part of academic production in International Relations. Discussion and the debates surrounding it are not a novelty in the work developed by Nationalities Observatory researchers and are a recurrent theme since 'World Tensions' was first published in 2005.

We know that, while foreign policy reflects a national self-perception and projects it to the world, nations are composed of heterogeneous communities with great inequalities among their members. The image projected is of a desired social cohesion that would legitimize dominant group interests while presenting it as that of the entire national collectivity. The analysis of foreign policy can reveal the myths that cover who and what guides decision-making and the contradictions between the social classes in terms of their behaviour and motivations as well as showing how effective it is in face of the complex relations between peoples, societies and States.

In the year 2017, the concern of broad sectors of Brazilian society with domestic issues resulted in some disregard for regional integration initiatives and international cooperation projects. Given this situation the ON held, in May 2018, the VI Meeting *World Tensions - Brazilian foreign policy: new directions and epistemological challenges* –the result of a fruitful partnership between Universidade Estadual do Ceará/ UECE e a Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-brasileira/UNILAB.

The present edition of TM has as its core this theme of great significance in terms of stimulating national scientific production in a transdisciplinary and innovative perspective through the exchange of knowledge between renown experts and the Ceará academic community. We begin by reproducing the interview

given by professors Bas'Ílele Malomalo, Camila Alves da Costa and Mônica Dias Martins to Radio Universitária's FM debate program.

Then, we bring the reader four articles that originated in the presentations of young researchers to the event's working groups. Reflecting on new foreign policy paradigms with an emphasis on contemporary social and political dynamics in Latin America, Jefferson Euclides Moura Vasconcelos deepens a historical approach to Cuban military organization for national defense and war, the basis of which is the mobilization of *the people in uniform*. Defense is also present in the concerns of Stephanie Daenekas and Camila Costa who emphasize the relevant role of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUL) in protecting the continent's natural resources against the greed of the great powers. They base their arguments on international relations theories.

Turning towards Africa in order to expand the research agenda and inter- institutional scientific dialogue, we present the scathing critical analysis of multiculturalism and the processes of cooperation between the African continent and Brazil of Congolese theologian and doctor of sociology Bas'Ílele Malomalo. From his experience as a professor at UNILAB he examines the integration of Africans and reflects on the political disputes within the project of building a democratic space in this academic community. In their research on Brazil-Africa relations, Beatriz Perote and Mônica Martins highlight theoretical-epistemological challenges in which the ideas of nation, nationality, state and society are problematized and enriched. From an empirical point of view, their article focuses on the repercussion of Guinea-Bissau's national liberation movement on current Guinean student struggles in UNILAB.

To discuss youth is to tread a multifaceted field of meanings, especially in the case of the young blacks who live in Redenção in the interior of Ceará or in the metropolitan area of Fortaleza. In order to understand the action of Municipal Guard agents, researchers at the Laboratory of Conflict Studies / COVIO at UECE, Rômulo Silva and Geovani Jacó focus on the poetic practices of juvenile collectives from the peripheries and favelas, perceived as "re-existence" in the face of insecurity and violence. This term is used in post-colonial studies to signify the totality of resistance

particularly by indigenous groups in defense of a way of life counter to the capitalist order. The “territory” they observe is the Great Janguirusu, scene of political and cultural production.

Regarding the processes of building national autonomies, Luciana Nóbrega’s article brings to the debate a fundamental question: what is the State and what or whom does it serve? In a rich dialogue with such fields as law and political theory, the author brings to light the substantive basis of the new Bolivian State: plurinationality. The discussion begins with the dissatisfaction of social movements such as the Movement for Socialism (MAS). Frustration with successive crises sometimes provoked by authoritarian governments or by neoliberal policies brought together the agendas of exploited Bolivian groups whose struggles proposed a distinct model of sociability based mainly on indigenous political conceptions, that is, envisaging the majority of its population.

The economist and director of the Centro de Investigación y Formación Obrera (CIFO), Manuel Sutherland highlights other arrangements in the construction of national autonomies. He focuses on the enormous transfer of rent from commercial capital to a bureaucratic-military caste in Venezuela that he calls militaristic nationalist populism. Sutherland points out that this process is based on spurious macroeconomic mechanisms, such as overvaluation of the currency and imports at preferential prices, which are some of the macroeconomic disasters that have promoted lumpencapitalism, based among other things on an economic policy centered on oil income which he calls “petrol rentism.” From this diagnosis, he critiques the socialist (developmentalist) model of that country.

No modern nation is constituted without strategic natural resources, especially those countries that extract most of their wealth from oil. As one of the major raw materials of contemporary economies, petroleum also has a structuring role in the construction of nationality, conceptualized here as a historically imagined community, in Benedict Anderson’s perspective. Esteban Vernik and Jorgelina Loza use this approach to explore the ideas about the nation held by a group of Argentine workers in Patagonia who reproduce speeches of political groups identified with a utilitarian

ethic of capital production. Against the backdrop of two important works, “Nationalism and Oil” by Gabriel Cohn and “Oil and Politics” by Arturo Frondizi, Argentine professor Milton Riquelme bases his analysis of the nation, the economy and the politics surrounding oil upon the social tensions that preceded the creation of the oil companies, Petrobras in Brazil and YPF in Argentina. The author turns his attention to the conflicts of interest between these countries’ nationalist sectors and foreign corporations that aim to control that strategic resource.

Given the thematic richness of this edition, we wish you a fruitful reading!

The editors