



# **World Politics of Security**

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The views and opinions expressed in the present collection of papers and essays are those of the contributing authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views and positions of the organising parties.

# Table of Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Introduction .....  | 9   |
| <i>Felix Dane</i>   |     |
| The Importance of the Global Maritime Domain<br>for World Politics and Security .....                           | 13  |
| <i>Lutz Feldt</i>   |     |
| Euro-Atlantic Security in an Era of Self Defence.....   | 25  |
| <i>Karl-Heinz Kamp</i>  |     |
| Hot Spot East and South China Seas and the Importance of<br>Crisis Management – A European Perspective .....    | 35  |
| <i>Peter Roell</i>  |     |
| The New Colour of War – Hybrid Warfare and Partnerships .....   | 47  |
| <i>Ralph D. Thiele</i>  |     |
| Values and Interests at the Heart of European Union Foreign Policy .....  | 61  |
| <i>Sven Biscop</i>  |     |
| The Impact of the Risk Perception Society on Sovereignty,<br>Security and Development in the Global South ..... | 69  |
| <i>Bill Durodié</i>   |     |
| The Geopolitics of Future Wars .....  | 79  |
| <i>Fabio Paggiaro</i>   |     |
| States in a Changing Global Order: Where does Africa fit? .....   | 91  |
| <i>Madeleine Goerg</i>  |     |
| A Stake in the System: the Evolution of Criminal Links to<br>Politics, and how they can be mitigated.....       | 109 |
| <i>Ivan Briscoe</i><br><i>Pamela Kalkman</i>  |     |
| World Politics of Security: Global Cooperation facing the<br>Predominance of Geopolitics .....                  | 129 |
| <i>Israel Hernández Seguin</i>  |     |
| European Natural Gas Security Challenges in the Wake of the<br>Ukraine/Russia Crisis .....                      | 141 |
| <i>David Koranyi</i>  |     |
| Security, Trust, and the NATO Alliance: European Security<br>and the Question of Reassurance.....               | 153 |
| <i>Jan Ruzicka</i>  |     |



## Table of Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Brazilian International Perspectives and the Fate of Security Relations with the European Union: a brief Assessment ..... | 165 |
| <i>Alcides Costa Vaz</i>  |     |
| National Laws and the Internet: The Making and Implications of Brazil's Marco Civil.....                                  | 171 |
| <i>Nivedita Kashyap</i>   |     |
| The Shifting Flows of Global Energy and Trade: Implications for Latin America .....                                       | 183 |
| <i>Paul Isbell</i>  |     |
| Reflections on the values of the International System of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century, and Brazil .....                   | 213 |
| <i>Eduardo Viola</i>  |     |
| Our Daily Bread: Brazil and the European Union in the Struggle for Food Security .....                                    | 221 |
| <i>Paulo Afonso Velasco Jr.</i><br><i>Julia Lorédo Pereira Leite</i>  |     |
| Drug-trafficking and Security in Contemporary Brazil .....  | 235 |
| <i>Thiago Rodrigues</i>   |     |
| Peace Process in Colombia: Implications for internal and regional Security .....  | 253 |
| <i>Henry Cancelado Franco</i>   |     |
| Nuclear Disarmament and Proliferation: Can we get the genie back into the bottle? .....                                   | 267 |
| <i>Antonio Ruy de Almeida Silva</i><br><i>Mariana Oliveira do Nascimento Plum</i>   |     |
| Future Prospects for EU–Brazil Defence Cooperation.....   | 293 |
| <i>Juliano da Silva Cortinhas</i>   |     |
| Elements of a democratically-based anti-authoritarian Foreign Policy .....  | 321 |
| <i>Lars Brozus</i>  |     |
| The Capa Method for Conflict Assessment and Policy Analysis for the Security and Defense Sectors .....                    | 333 |
| <i>Salvador Raza</i>  |     |
| NGOs as norm dealers: Norm-Diffusion in Conflict-Management using the example of the ICRC .....                           | 349 |
| <i>Claudia Hofmann</i>  |     |
| The International System, Sovereignty, Territory and the Nation State: a Brazilian Perspective .....                      | 371 |
| <i>Sérgio Eduardo Moreira Lima</i>  |     |



# Introduction

**Felix Dane**

Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to Brazil

The international security order has found itself suffering beneath the strain of significant tensions these past years. With every publication of this series the problems analysed seem to have worsened: From the rise of ISIS to the situation in the Ukraine; from the refugee crisis in Europe to maritime tensions in East and South China Seas; from hybrid warfare to climate change; from a seemingly never-ending economic crisis to drug trafficking networks; from renewed nuclear threats to cyber warfare. The list appears endless and the international system, in turmoil.

Particularly troublesome is the backdrop upon which these tensions occur: the security status quo has fundamentally changed. Actors, frameworks and interconnections have all grown more complex and diffuse. Challenges such as the heightened importance of hybrid conflicts have come to the fore. Traditional means of warfare will, of course, not fade away, but in this protean 21st century they are no longer central to victory. The techniques used by both ISIS and Russia illustrate that cutting edge information technology, including modelling and simulation, constitute the tools of modern warfare. The speed of the interconnected world has spread to conflict, which has become adaptive to policies and countermeasures, as well as able to embed itself within traditional legal structures.

It is interesting then, that in this modern context, old discussions of geopolitics unfold anew; states, it seems, still follow predominantly realist lines, planning their actions as strategic moves to increase their relative power. The developments that led to Russia's annexation of Crimea illustrate this well. Moscow's aggressive steps in Eastern Europe profoundly altered defence and security planning in the Euro-Atlantic realm. Meanwhile, the situation in the South China Sea is setting off alarm bells in the Asian continent. The rapid increase of Islamist violence equally challenged international security and damaged domestic order in large parts of the Middle East and of Northern Africa.

The implications of these multiple conflicts go far beyond these respective regions and are broader than the mere posing of security policy challenges. They suggest instead that the international order of the post-1945 world, based on liberal values and principles as well as upon a respect for international law, may be at risk of crumbling away.

The globalisation process itself both causes and extends all these new tensions and changes in the security status quo. The advent and spread of multipolarity can have one of two effects: it will either exert a stabilising influence due to interconnectivity and trade, or it will increase conflict since far more players will have access to military, economic and political means.

Confronted with this fast-paced and so easily mutable international security arena, global players will have to firstly innovate: developing new defence and security policies, technologies and reconceptualisations of the world; secondly, they will need to return to basics: recommitting to key values such as peace and freedom, diplomacy and dialogue. The former includes development of anti-access and area denial (A2AD) policies; setting guidelines for ambitious mechanisms of cooperative surveillance and Intel sharing; shifting focus to the global maritime basins, to cite but a few. The latter, meanwhile, involves revitalising the traditional structures of the multilateral order; deepening ties between democratic nations; forging new agreements within cooperation fora on the key security issues of our time.

And indeed, cooperation surrounding geopolitical interests, between emerging countries and developed nations, and/or between networked democracies could help to advance the collective security agenda, nudging the world towards a new paradigm for peace and stability. Here, both NATO and the European Union; both Brazil and Latin America as a whole – will need to engage with strategic neighbours as well as with key international partners to bolster their security and capacities. Future challenges may bring democracies together. In particular a partnership between Brazil and Europe – in many fields but also in defence – has much potential to be explored.

To this end, a decisive political investment towards strengthening bilateral relations will be required. In the near future, there might be more convergence between Brazil and Europe on global security issues and governance mechanisms. However, concerns regarding sovereignty and resource protection as well as efforts towards reconciling food, energy and environmental security concerns might lead to political differences. Here, the role of leadership will be crucial – on both sides of the Atlantic.

It is, in short, now up to the society of states as a whole to determine which version of multipolarity they desire and to ensure that our increasingly interconnected world returns to a path of peace and stability.

Promoting dialogue, stimulating debate, and furthering knowledge of world affairs is the primary aim of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Over the course of more than a decade, the Foundation – together with its partner, the Brazilian Centre for International Relations and with the support of the Delegation of the European Union – has organised the Forte de Copacabana International Security Conference. This annual event is dedicated to the exchange of ideas through academic and policy-oriented debate, as well as the promotion of key networks. The conference has become the largest in its field within Latin America; together with its annual publication, they form two examples of the Foundation's many dialogue fora, reinforcing the link between North and South. Brazil and Europe may be set in different geopolitical realities, yet both share a common interest in a secure and stable world order.

In the present volume writers were invited to ponder the question of the world politics of security. Each writer has chosen a different angle from which to analyse cross-cutting themes that form part of the wider umbrella of the world politics of security. Assembled as a whole, we hope to illustrate the complex net of divergences and commonalities, with a view to shining a light on the often shadowy issues of the world politics of security in the modern day. We hope to stimulate the debate and enhance the dialogue between these two regions.

North and South here join forces as one to consider International Security issues which surpass such dichotomies. The challenges the world faces have become increasingly diffuse, hybrid and geographically unfettered. But this also means that they affect us all. To which the only response can be more – and better – cooperation.

Rio de Janeiro, October 2015