

Brazil Emerging in the Global Security Order

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Introduction

Felix Dane

Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Brazil

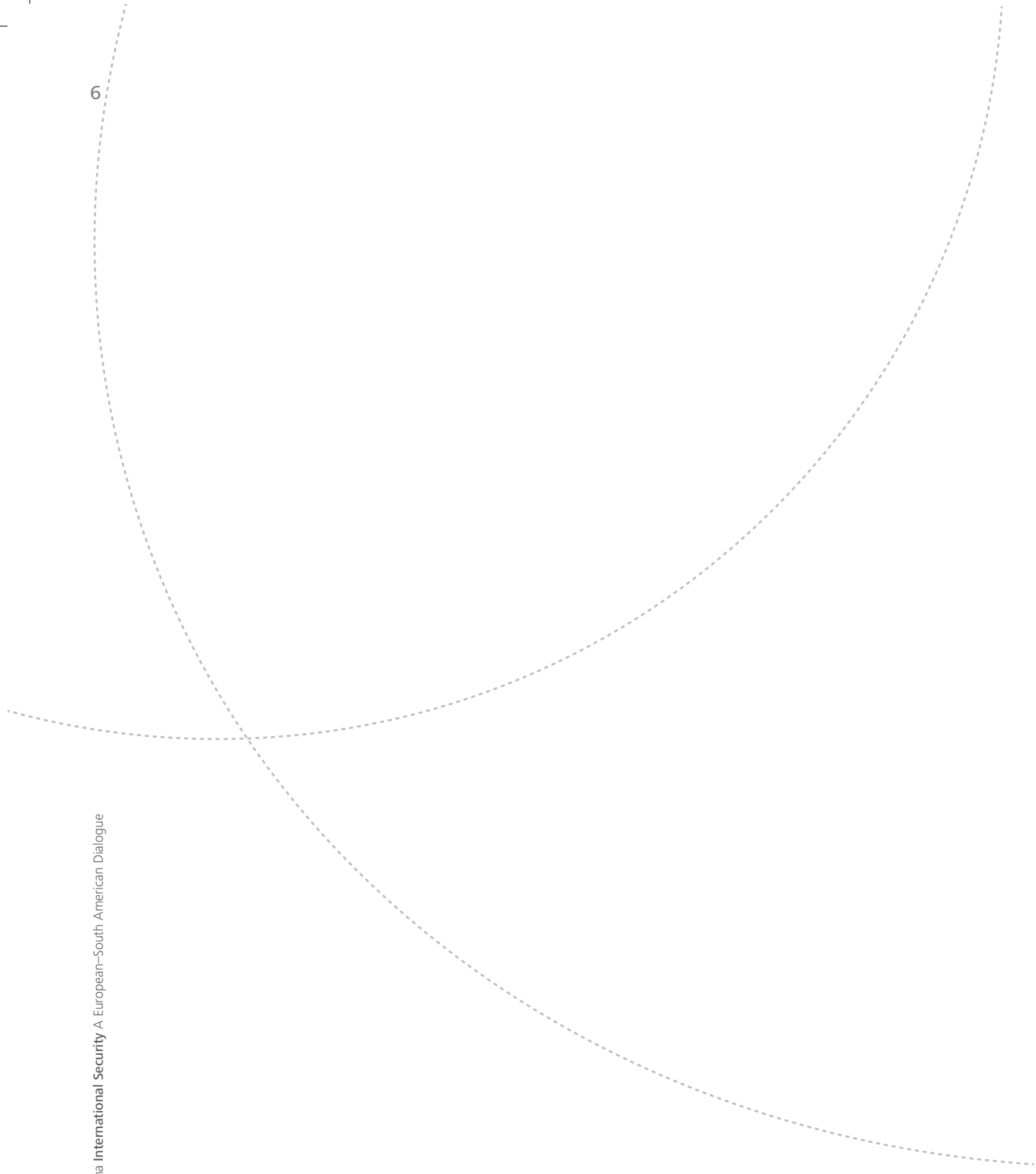
Gregory John Ryan

Project Coordinator for Foreign and Defence Policy

In the domain of global affairs, two driving forces continue to work towards a potential far-reaching change of the world order we know: globalization and the redistribution of power among states. While the former affects the process of interstate relations, the latter reshapes the deeper structure underlying the international system. Both have gained pace recently, and as a consequence, our world is becoming ever more integrated; while also moving towards multipolarity.

To name and analyze the implications of these developments is the task of the writers in the following pages. Yet there can be no doubt that in the search for a general direction towards which the international community should set sail, the expansion of cooperation and dialogue must feature among the guiding principles. Only by jointly working on the protection and the provision of global public goods, the transforming forces of our times can be managed in harmony with the common aspirations of all mankind, which include peace, dignity, the conservation of nature as well as the wellbeing for all.

Consequently, the prosperity and progress of each nation is intertwined with that of all others. As such, all must work together so as to keep the global commons open and free, to address instability which dots some points of our common earth, to deny the spread of agents of destruction and calamity, as well as to keep climate change and environmental degradation from robbing us of the base of life itself.



However, the anarchical nature of the international system does not always make the imperative of cooperation easy. International institutions are important, but so is an exchange of views and ideas on matters of common interests. Only through mutual understanding there can be cooperation. Yet, time and again, we encounter individuals unwavering in their particular views, while lacking in understanding of the perspectives of their global interlocutors. To counter this trend is one of our key missions. And this then is the premise of this book: to further mutual understanding.

In our many years of work around the world, we at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation have ceaselessly strived for what seems natural yet is often neglected: the furthering of knowledge about the Other. To value such, of course, came also as a result of the pivotal lessons learned in the aftermath of the Second World War and during the course of European integration. In its process, a continent of warring nations was turned into a region of peace and prosperity, united in diversity.

In this present volume we have thus invited our many writers to think of the changing nature of the contemporary world, and to lay out their views on what that means for Brazil, for Europe, as well as for others. Liberty in the choice of narrative and substance went along with the invitation, as long as the premise was to be placed under the overall umbrella which constitutes the title of the publication. The result is a kaleidoscope of opinions, representing a diversity of institutions and individuals from both sides of the Atlantic. We very much hope that you enjoy reading this book, and that in the end you too will feel more enlightened about the matter at hand. Please feel free to contact us with your ideas and opinions.