

The **OMNIDEF ANALYSIS** is a monthly publication with analyses* about themes addressed in the previous month of **OMNIDEF** and identified as the most relevant for the National Defense context.

Highlights

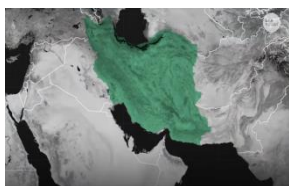
GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGIC SECTORS

- *UNITED STATES AND IRAN: IMPLICATIONS ON THE CONTEMPORARY POWER BALANCE*
- *INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INSURGENCY AND WAR: REFLECTIONS ON HONG KONG*

BRAZILIAN PUBLIC SECURITY

THE PROBLEM OF BRAZILIAN PUBLIC SECURITY IN THE SHADOW OF ONGOING REFORMS IN THE COUNTRY.

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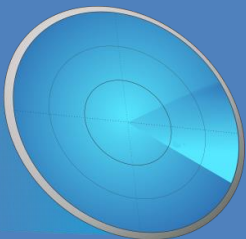
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GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGIC SECTORS

ANALYSIS 1

United States and Iran: Implications on the contemporary power balance

Author: Antonio dos Santos

Co-author: Marcos do Vale Araujo

The tensions between the United States and Iran are historic and involve multiple interests in world board power play. When it comes to historical factors, one considers mainly the friction of relations between the two actors since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, with the beginning of an autonomous foreign policy and often considered as revisionist to the foundations and norms of the American-led liberal order.

Following this logic, it's worth saying that the end of the Cold War and the unfreezing of the balance of power in the international system would be determinant for the beginning of new tensions between United States and Iran. Given the focus on previously unprivileged issues in international relations in the last century, such as terrorism and religious fundamentalism, the efforts made by Americans in shaping a structure of global confrontation to these issues should be emphasized.

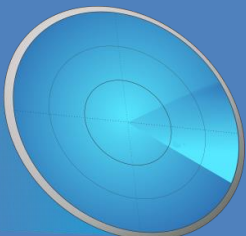
We must also bear in mind that the objective of maintaining an uninterrupted flow of oil from the Middle East required the United States to establish a policy of alliances with some states to the detriment of their opponents. Saudi Arabia and their historic rivalry with Iran is the Gordian knot in this matter. Support for political groups and parties in neighboring countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Libya make the issue more complex and result in antagonisms that are difficult to resolve.

Furthermore, it is worth pointing out, considering the context of the "Global War on Terror", the classification of Iran as part of the "axis of evil" by the Bush administration, or even the long history of economic sanctions applied to Iran in the first two decades of the century, as made available by the American government. In the same vein, when it has been said before about the multiplicity of interests and effects caused by the erosion of relations between the USA and Iran, this includes instabilities both in the regional scenario of the Middle East and at a global level.

This statement is corroborated by taking into account some key events. First of all, there is the American withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear control agreement last year, which is considered to be one of the Obama administration's main victories in limiting uranium enrichment in Iran's nuclear program. The consequences of such a measure reflect uncertainties as to the long-term sustainability of the pact, considering the symbolic and material weight that the United States had in the agreement. As much as attempts to recover the integrity of the agreement have already been made by some actors such as France, the United States' persistence in retaliating it has been and still is a reality.

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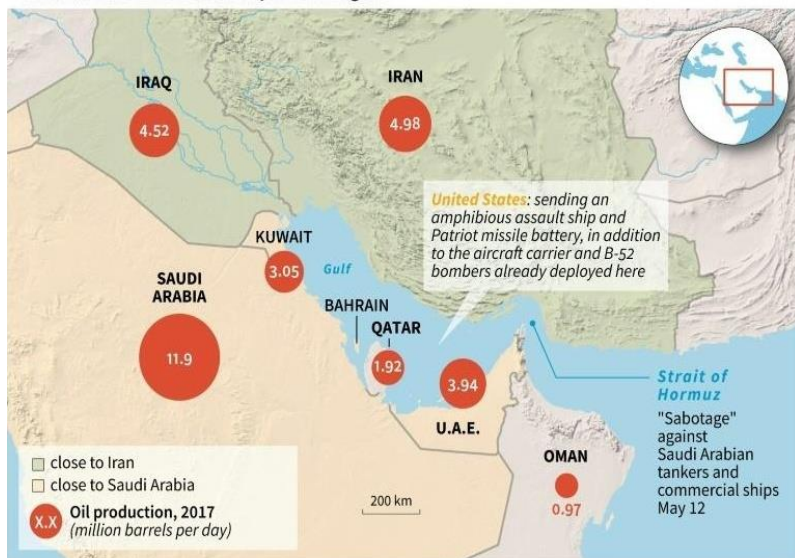
As proof of this, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors confirmed on 1 July that Iran had violated the limit of 300 kilograms of enriched uranium that can be stored, according to international media reports. On the other hand, it is possible to say that the US stance on foreign policy and defense, especially during the current Trump administration, also contributes directly to the escalation of tensions. According to the U.S. Department of State's annual Country Reports on Terrorism, "Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism worldwide remained undiminished through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force, its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's proxy Hizballah, which remained a significant threat to the stability of Lebanon and the broader region."

What we can extract from this is that, while a hostile stance towards Iran is adopted, consequently there are impacts on other major players on the regional scenario in the Middle East, such as the aforementioned Hezbollah, supported by Iran, and Israel, a strategic ally of the US. Based on this, more than analyzing the tensions between the United States and Iran as an isolated fact, it becomes important to observe the weight of the international structure and its constraints in the unfolding of the facts and their impacts on the foreign policy of the countries of the region.

As noted throughout the month, in addition to the points mentioned above, although the release of the English oil ship into the Strait of Hormuz occurred, there was significant wear and tear on Iran's relationship, not only with the United Kingdom, but indirectly with the United States and the West as a whole. In this case, the magnitude of the event is directly related to the geostrategic importance of this choke-point, mainly due to its maritime oil routes, as illustrated by the map below. Finally, in the same vein, the recent drone attack on a Saudi oil complex claimed by the Iranian-backed Yemen's Houthi movement and the information that the US will deploy troops in Saudi Arabia confirms the clear instability of the region, and it can thus be seen that the escalation of the crisis continues in a growing threatening light.

The Strait of Hormuz: a strategic passage

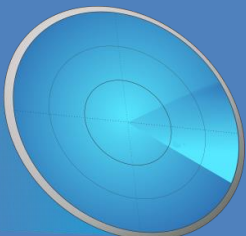
One third of the world's oil traffic passes through it



Source: Agence France-Presse

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For methodological purposes, here our objective was basically to list superficially the main events linked to the crisis. The consensus, when considering all these factors that involve the confrontation between the USA and Iran, directly or indirectly, is that the understanding of their relations requires the elaboration of detailed works and analyses that manage to capture in a detailed way each aspect that generates tensions. ■

News published by OMNIDEF

The Sun – 16/09/2019

Iran seizes UAE oil tanker in Strait of Hormuz and arrests crew hours after US accuses Tehran of oil plant attack

IRAN has reportedly seized a UAE oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz hours after the US accused Tehran of a shocking oil plant attack in Saudi Arabia. The Islamic republic's hardline Revolutionary Guard is said to have detained the ship and its crew of 11 under the pretext of smuggling diesel. According to unconfirmed reports from the Fars news agency, the ship was carrying around 250,000 litres of fuel. If confirmed, the seizure would represent the latest move by Iran to hamper navigation in the waterway - one of the key routes for global energy supplies.

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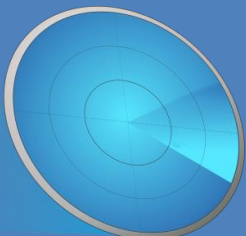
BBC News – 22/09/2019

Iran warns foreign forces to stay out of Gulf, amid new US deployment

Hassan Rouhani said foreign forces had always brought "pain and misery" and should not be used in an "arms race". The US is sending more troops to Saudi Arabia after an attack on Saudi oil facilities both nations blame on Iran. Mr Rouhani also said Iran would present a new Gulf peace initiative at the United Nations in the coming days. This year has seen continuing tension between the US and Iran, following President Donald Trump's abandonment of a deal aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear activities in return for the easing of sanctions.

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GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGIC SECTORS

ANALYSIS 2

Information technology, insurgency and war: Reflections On Hong Kong

Author: *Guilherme Lopes da Cunha*

Co-author: *Juliana de Souza Clos*

The fluidity of information is one of the most striking features of contemporary society. If, on the one hand, in its early days, communication was a resource used by the Sumerians, who adopted clay moulds for iconographic reproduction, on the other, in the 15th century the innovations of Gutenberg launched the basis of the modern press and helped to give new emphasis to the dissemination of ideas. Thus, phenomena of immeasurable impacts were triggered: among other consequences, thought became, simultaneously, both a source of collective reflection and a tool of destabilization.

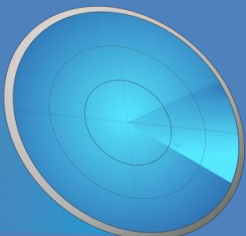
The course of centuries has proven the extent of this approach. The evolution of communication channels spurred the diffusion of knowledge, brought improvements in the management of territories and contributed to bringing governments and administrators closer together; however, it also served as fuel for insurgency, rebellion and misinformation. The enhancement of this dynamic went beyond the limits of the imaginable in terms of lifestyle, identity and cultural (re)construction, and vehicles of contestation. In Milton Santos' famous analyses, mainly in "Toward an Other Globalization", the compression of space and time would find its apex in a Third Industrial Revolution, based on the Technical - Scientific - Informational axis, giving rise to a globalization that not only presents itself a salvationist element, but also as a fable, originating spaces of resistance.

Contemporary society, therefore, shelters in its core the informational component as one of its pillars. This has occupied the academic effort of intellectuals in different scientific fields. Among other authors, Manuel Castells, both in the trilogy "Network Society" and in "The Power of Communication", measures the level of depth and the degree of importance of information in society. On another agenda, Alessandro Visacro, in "A Guerra na Era da Informação (The War in the Information Age)", reflects aspects of the information war associated with military activity: the future war has as its essence the use of information as a basic tool. Information, therefore, is one of the keys to understanding the current era.

In this scenario, the accelerated evolution of innovations has been generating challenges in measuring the impacts of these technologies on the social environment. The cyclical dynamic of creation and destruction of what constitutes state of the art implies effects on society. The field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) constitutes a broad laboratory, as it motivates uncertainties and vulnerabilities: the Internet of Things, the Fourth Industrial Revolution to come, and the 5G technology, which is already a crucial element of a competition between the main technological powers, demonstrate the existence of gaps in the scientific literature dedicated to studies on Defense, Security and power relations.

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In this way, these new technologies have wide potential for application in conflicts. According to national and international media reports, demonstrators in Hong Kong have used applications such as Tinder, Uber and Pokémon Go to organize protests and evade police control. In addition, "On packed subways, protesters anonymously send freshly-designed posters via Apple's wi-fi and Bluetooth-based file-transfer facility AirDrop - to share times and locations" (BBC News, in August 9th 2019). Thus, this possibility of organizing groups and events of political bias in a network is illustrated, with greater ease and speed what had made it possible to organize riots with speed and size never thought before.

Opinions on the causes, consequences and potential outcomes of the demonstrations in Hong Kong occupy the attention of the world's main information vehicles and political analysts linked to public and private institutions. The possibility of an informational war against China corroborates the concern with a Security and Defense agenda on ICT, shedding light on new modalities of informational, cybernetic and electromagnetic warfare. In times of arguments, such as those of citizenship exercised through insurgency, as advocated by James Holston, the investigation on the Human-Machine interface needs to receive renewed attention and be the object of more accurate analysis. ■

News published by OMNIDEF

The Guardian – 01/09/2019

How far will China go to stamp out Hong Kong protests?

How far will China go to end Hong Kong's unrest, now in its 13th week and still growing? Senior officials have spoken not only of "terrorist acts" but of "colour revolution characteristics", making it clear that they have ruled out compromise. So far they have relied on the Hong Kong government to suppress the protests, but the banning of rallies, brutal police tactics, thug attacks, the arrests of high-profile activists and metro line closures have failed to dampen the unrest. On Sunday, thousands of activists descended on the airport.

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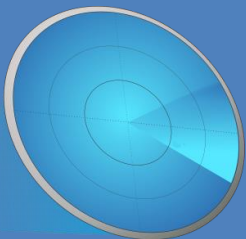
Folha de São Paulo – 11/09/2019

China cobra explicações da Alemanha após ministro receber ativista de Hong Kong

Bastou uma foto no Twitter para o governo da China pôr em xeque as relações bilaterais que mantém com a Alemanha. Nela, o ministro das Relações Exteriores alemão, Heiko Maas, posa ao lado do ativista Joshua Wong, um dos líderes do Movimento dos Guarda-Chuvas em Hong Kong. Wong chegou a Berlim na noite de segunda (9) e foi recebido pela autoridade alemã. Nesta quarta (11), o embaixador da Alemanha em Pequim foi convocado pelo Ministério das Relações Exteriores da China para dar explicações —um gesto de protesto dos chineses.

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BRAZILIAN PUBLIC SECURITY

The problem of Brazilian Public Security in the shadow of ongoing reforms in the country.

Author: *Ricardo Rodrigues Freire*

Co-author: *Luzia Maria Pereira Rocha*

The problem of Public Security remains latent within Brazilian society, although the whirlwind of discussions on pension and tax reforms may have reduced media attention to it. However, given the relevance of the topic, this analysis will seek to focus on three aspects deemed relevant and that involve the problem of Public Security: legal support, recent government initiatives and the corresponding statistics and, finally, the "Environmental Guarantee of Law and Order (Environmental GLO)".

Starting with the first aspect, we can see that the so-called "anti-crime package" submitted by the federal government to the legislative power seems to be faded, due to the reduced media coverage of the issue, compared to the other reforms mentioned above. However, the researcher who focuses on the federal legislative process will find that the proposals for alterations in the law aimed on mitigating crime are constituted by ideas of changes in current legal diplomas. They are based on increased effectiveness in the fight against organized and violent crime and corruption, as well as on the search to reduce the "bottlenecks" in the criminal justice system.

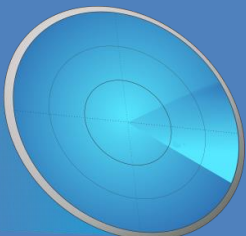
In practice, today the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies are dealing with the Bill and Complementary Law No. 38/2019, 89/2019, 881/2019, 882/2019, 1865/2019, 1864/2019, whose main focus is on changing the Electoral Code (criminalizing the use of slush funds) the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Enforcement Law and the Hedioner Crimes Law (to establish rules on the competence of the Common and Electoral Courts, as well as measures against corruption, organized crime and crimes committed with serious violence against individuals).

It is also noted that all these legislative projects have been flowing relatively quickly in the different committees of the Brazilian parliament, and have been or are being submitted to public hearings. Therefore, it is expected that the changes requested by the Executive Branch will be refined by the Legislative Branch and that the result of this process will be compatible with the needs of operators of Law, Public Security and, especially, the concerns of society.

As these pleaded changes conform a range of different interests, this inserts the debate into a complex political negotiation, in which the best solution will be found ahead the "art of the possible", with a view of achieving the greater good. It's clear that, without the strict rules to curb criminality, it only tends to increase in volume, since the economic dividends derived from corruption, trafficking and other illegal activities are very high. It is necessary to create coercive mechanisms in order to prevent the prosecution of these crimes and support the power of state repression.

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Therefore, it is seen as an imperative that national political actors need to have a holistic view of the problems that affect the country despite of solving one issue at a time. While pension and tax reforms are underway, they must simultaneously follow the other reforms, including the "anti-crime package", as the Public Security crisis requires structural changes, including in its legal framework. It is evaluated that the insistence on an immediate simplistic solution, with a single focus on police actions, will not solve the current crisis.

Moving on to the second aspect, the dramatic fall in crime rates is striking. It is a fact that a positive point of the current management is the compilation of statistics in the [Database and National Information on Public Security](#). However, the merit of the current Ministry of Justice and Public Security was to continue the actions adopted by the previous government, especially in the implementation of the measures set forth in [Law No. 13,675 of June 11, 2018](#), which establishes the Single Public Security System and the National Public Security Information System, Prison, Traceability of Weapons and Ammunition, Genetic Material, Digital and Drug Policy.

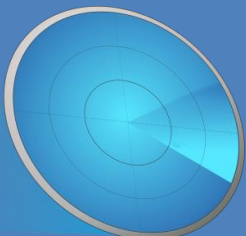
As a result of this legal regulation, it was possible to standardize a series of procedures that lend methodology and credibility to statistics. On the other hand, there is still a long way to go. The Brazilian Forum of Public Security, for example, an organization that has been working on the problem for a long time with the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA, acronymous in Portuguese) in the elaboration of the [Atlas of Violence](#), has been making comments on the activities in progress, which will be reported below and deserve careful attention.

The measures recently adopted in the penitentiary system - removal of criminal leaders to federal prisons - and the implementation of a pilot project for the repression of urban violence - initiated in the cities of Ananindeua (PA), Paulista (PE), Cariacica (ES), São José dos Pinhais (PR) and Goiânia (GO), one in each region of the country seem to be auspicious. However, such postures would overly go against the economic interests of criminal organizations. Thus, they trigger violent reactions from criminality. An example of this is the resurgence of hostile acts that devastated the state of Ceará in September, in response to the measures adopted to disarticulate gangs within the state penitentiary system.

As for the National Program for Confronting Violent Crime "Em Frente, Brasil", it was praised for employing medium-sized cities as a "trial balloon" in order to experiment a sensitive public policy. However, there are criticisms to consider, such as: (i) the "continuity" factor, even if there are fluctuations in the political environment; (ii) ensuring that the Union does not exceed its limits of competence and takes the place of states and municipalities in the area of Public Security; and (iii) the urgent need to trigger integrated actions between different governmental areas, in order to avoid restricting the program to police actions.

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It is also believed that particular consideration should be dismissed to the unity of the different levels of the Federal Pact. Recent statements about the need for recurrence to international organizations on solving the problems of public security, on the part of the state entity, would not favor the prosperity of the measures underway - besides configuring the possibility of tarnishing national sovereignty. It is understood that political bargaining, which is part of the democratic process, should not extrapolate the attributions of each member of the Pact.

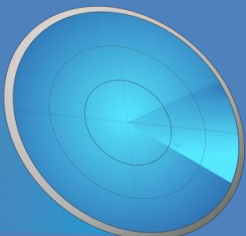
It is important to underscore that the Brazilian Constitution establishes in the first clause of [article 21](#) that the Union is responsible, among many other obligations, for "maintaining relations with foreign states and taking part in international organizations". Finally, the last point proposed for analysis is the Environmental GLO. The law and order guarantee operations are clearly provided for in [article 142 of the Federal Constitution \(CF/88\)](#) and regulated by [Complementary Laws No. 97/1999](#) (amended by Complementary Laws Nos. 117/2004 and 136/2010). The legal system in scope is explicit in limiting the use of the Armed Forces to "the preservation of public order and the security of people and property". It also further restricts the use of the Union's military presence to the formal recognition of the Chairman that the bodies advocated in [article 144 of the Constitution](#) are "unavailable, non-existent or insufficient for the regular performance of their constitutional mission" (paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 15 of Complementary Law No. 97/1999).

Thus, there is in this governmental action a competition of different legal supports, a fact that provides, as everything in the scope of the Law, questions of all kinds. Have the fires in the Amazon region threatened the public order? Were municipal and state resources "formally" recognized as insufficient to quell the fires? Could the employment of the Armed Forces take place under the aegis of the general subsidiary attribution of "support to Civil Defense agencies", without the police power being attributed to them?

The measure adopted ends up being criticized by part of those who interpret the political use of the Union's military presence to solve problems that can be resolved in other spheres, without interfering the armed arm of the nation in domestic matters. But, with the due permission of the reader, it is undeniable that the criminal actions unleashed by loggers, miners and land grabbers have been putting property and public order at risk for some time. However, the decision is based on the discretionary power of the Chairman - Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces -, and from what can be inferred, it does not demean the current legal diplomas.

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Nevertheless, the issue of the trivialization of *ultima ratio regis* employment always remains uncertain on ordinary questions. To paraphrase the words of a former High Command Army member, the actual National Secretary for Public Security, recently broadcasted in the national media about the employment of the Armed Forces in the GLO: "It's not the role of the Armed Forces. We can act in logistics, transport in planes, helicopters, intelligence and communications. But never effectively as a police officer, because we are not police." ■

News published by OMNIDEF

El País – 27/09/2019

Ceará volta a viver onda de terror com ataques em 23 cidades

Oito meses se passaram desde a última onda de terror vivida pelos cearenses. E o pesadelo voltou. Criminosos espalham o pavor pelo Estado há uma semana em ataques que o Governo novamente classifica como represália às mais recentes medidas implementadas no sistema carcerário. Até o momento, 77 ações foram registradas em 23 municípios. A maioria das ocorrências concentra-se na capital, Fortaleza: 41.

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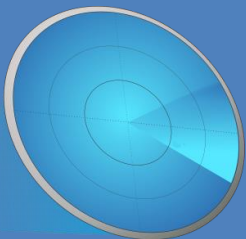
G1 – 29/09/2019

Witzel cita 'genocídio' no RJ e diz que vai à ONU pedir punições a Paraguai, Bolívia e Colômbia

O governador do RJ, Wilson Witzel, disse neste domingo (29) que vai recorrer à ONU para combater a violência no RJ, que chamou de "genocídio". Em fala a jornalistas durante o Rock in Rio, ele afirmou que vai pedir sanções aos países vizinhos que vendem armas ao Brasil, como Paraguai, Bolívia e Colômbia. "Todas essas ações. Trabalhando para tirar as armas...trabalhando agora junto às Nações Unidas...levar realmente a causa do genocídio do Rio de Janeiro, que não é o governador", disse Witzel.

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