

# The permanence of land power at the center of military clashes to conquer territories

**Sandro Teixeira Moita** 

Exército Brasileiro.

Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército.

Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil.

sandrotm@gmail.com

COLEÇÃO MEIRA MATTOS

ISSN on-line 2316-4891 / ISSN print 2316-4833

<http://ebrevistas.eb.mil.br/index.php/RMM/index>



The most intense phase of combats in the war in Ukraine, which began on February 24 of this year, revealed a new space for reflections on the war in the global panorama. Not that the conflict is unique in the world, because it is not. Violence has been witnessed in Africa, Asia, the Middle East for years, but without the impact derived from the appeal that the conflict in Eastern Europe has, since it involves a military power on one side, Russia, and on the other, the largest global military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The fighting that followed, despite all the discourse common to the military fetish, of an alleged obsolescence of land power in conflicts, served as a demonstration of its relevant role in a contemporary war. Naval and air means have their role in the struggle that takes place, but in essence, it is a combat between two armies and their associated forces, such as auxiliaries, paramilitary or mercenary forces. It ends up having more similarities with past wars, as the Western Front of the First World War, than with possible futures pointed out for a long time, dominated by the fetish of technology, which would have the power to remove ground combat from the war, almost as if making it a completely sanitized activity.

In spite of the plans of men, it may be said, with a touch of irony, that war had its own plans, in which land power holds high importance. However, it must also be said that it is not an isolated dimension of military force, nor can it be in a contemporary war. What the battlefields of the Twenty-First Century demonstrate is an ever-increasing interconnectedness between the various domains of military force, and their very effectiveness depends on this.

The videos of drones being used against ground forces such as armored vehicles and combat vehicles, artillery pieces or corps troops, demonstrate greater effectiveness for ground operations by means traditionally understood as air power. Several examples can be found, and in fact, this helps to understand the new doctrine of the army of the United States of America, the Multi-Domain Operations, which broadens the employment opportunities of each of the fields in contemporary conflict.

This way, land power demonstrates its importance and permanent presence as one of the pillars of support for military force, as a tool capable of imposing its will on an enemy by administering violence or the threat of violence. In an increasingly connected world, there is still room for the soldier, the first and most fundamental resource of land power, to be the one who controls and defends a territory, or who conquers it by his effort combined to technological platforms. And so it will be for some time yet, until another path is found, either through political solution, or technological evolution.

In this issue of the Meira Mattos collection we have a set of articles focused on issues focused on different processes in military organizations. Starting with education in the articles "Research on sustainable practices in military organizations - a systematic review of the literature" and "The history of military education in perspective - training of officers of the Agulhas Negras Military Academy (1989-2018)". Two other articles are focused on internal management "The customization of technology readiness assessment processes based on the TRL scale - development of a methodology for the Brazilian Army" and "Research on sustainable practices in military organizations - a systematic review of the literature".

Other articles deal with the important issues for the debates around national and international security and defense. Looking at border issues, and dialoguing with the dossier launched in January 2021 (CMM. v. 16, N.55), we have the articles "Health Security on the Brazil-Venezuela border - vulnerabilities and opportunities" and "Territorial walls and migration controls in Italy and Greece during the Syrian humanitarian crisis (2015-2018)".

Finally, the last two texts deal with important topics for the country, which are the Cyber issue and the reform of the UN Security Council. These are the texts: "Cyberspace, Logistics and National Security Threats, Not Necessarily in that Order" and "For a seat at the high table! Economic expression of national power as a factor of influence for the reform of the United Nations Security Council".

## **Reference**

COLEÇÃO MEIRA MATTOS: revista das ciências militares. Rio de Janeiro: ECEME, v. 16, n. 55, 30 dez. 2021. Available at: <http://ebrevistas.eb.mil.br/RMM/issue/view/1008>. Accessed 11 jun. 2022.