

Defense Studies and Military Academic Production in Brazil

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COLEÇÃO MEIRA MATTOS

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

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



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The imbricated relationship between research, development and the Armed Forces, or rather, between scientific knowledge and war, has been known for centuries, inside and outside the strategic environment and military planning. However, this relationship became even more visible, and with deeper consequences, from the Second World War and the period that followed, marked by disruptive innovations that would change the course of development and global industrial production. In Brazil, this perception accompanied formulations of development strategies and was present in national geopolitical thought, in such a way that the Brazilian Armed Forces had a strong scientific-technological apparatus, such as the Army's, Navy's and the Aeronautics Research and Development (R&D) laboratories, engineering schools such as engineering schools such as the Military Engineering Institute (IME) and the Technological Institute of Aeronautics (ITA), and partnerships with universities and research centers.

On the other hand, if scientific research in the field of engineering and technology were rooted in military education and training, areas of knowledge linked to the human and social sciences received less attention from the Brazilian Armed Forces throughout the 20th century. Although the participation of the military in geopolitics and the contributions of the Escola Superior de Guerra are highlighted, it is only from the second decade of the 21st century that interest in the development of scientific research situated in the broader spectrum of political science, strategic studies, and international relations begins to emerge within the institutions of higher education of the Armed Forces. Even if these disciplines were somehow included in military training courses, they would not have become an object or theoretical basis for formulating hypotheses, solving problems or new doctrinal propositions involving the actions of the military. Military training, due to its peculiarities, was also restricted to the barracks environment and independent, legally and formally, from the National Education System (SNE).

The creation of *stricto sensu* postgraduate programs by higher education organizations linked to the Ministry of Defense in military sciences, maritime studies and aerospace sciences, in the sphere of human sciences, reflected this moment of transition in which defense studies were incorporated into the National Postgraduate System (SNPG), enabling greater sharing of knowledge produced between military schools and universities. Military education institutions

started to offer master's and doctoral courses in areas of concentration until then reserved for officers and, at the same time, received professors and researchers with excellent academic training, which has generated, on the one hand, an increase in the national critical mass in defense and, on the other, enrichment in military theoretical training in disciplines that are fundamental to strategic thinking, in addition to the practice of the scientific method as an element for decision-making.

It is interesting to note that this moment presents two paths: the greater openness of military institutions to the academy and vice versa, and the closer approach of the civil academic community to the issue of defense. Its bases can be found in the creation of the Ministry of Defense in 1999, in the launch of the Pro-Defense Program, six years later, which expanded cooperation networks between military institutions and universities, and also in the creation of the Brazilian Association for Defense Studies (ABED) in the same year, which brought together academics and researchers of national defense, at that time few in number in the country.

Since then, Brazilian scientific production in the field has been gaining body and quality, which can be observed, among other things, by the greater volume of publications in high-impact journals. Defense studies, characteristically and desirably interdisciplinary, are still unfolding in other areas of the applied human and social sciences, such as international politics, defense economics, military history, military anthropology, military education, among others. It is also clear the increase in the number of Brazilian researchers who have national defense as their object of study, and the maturation and professionalization of scientific journals from military schools.

It is in this scenario that the Meira Mattos Collection is inscribed, a vehicle that has traditionally contributed to the dissemination of military sciences and defense studies in Brazil. This issue explains this maturation and the interdisciplinarity mentioned when contemplating international politics in the articles "*Studies about the ground military presence: the Indian case as a challenge for Brazil*", "*The role of ZOPACAS in Brazil's foreign and defense policies in the 21st century*" and "*The Two Dimensions of Financial Warfare*" the latter in interface with the defense economy. This, in turn, was addressed in the articles "*The Brazilian defense industry in the era of irregular warfare: the main contributions and its technological challenges*" and "*Challenges of innovation as a strategy for generating land-based military capabilities*". The issue also brings the theme of military education in the article "*Epistemology of practice in continuous teacher training of Agulhas Negras Military Academy*".

With great enthusiasm, we, members of the academic defense community, celebrate the important steps already taken, although we are aware that there is still a long way to go for the consolidation of defense studies in Brazil. And this path is related, without turning back, to the proximity between civil and military academics and to the recognition of the importance of the human and social sciences for the formulation of national strategic thinking.