

# Integrated Border Defense and Security: Challenges and Opportunities

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Despite the different forms of integration and the strengthening of ties between countries (political, economic, cultural, military, technological), there is currently a process of (re) valuation of state action at the borders, especially to face a series of complex and diverse phenomena such as international migration, the increase in violence related to cross-border illicit acts (drug trafficking, arms smuggling, among others) and international health phenomena, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. These facts are not isolated, as the causes and consequences intertwine and/or spill over into other topics, such as Human Rights, Environment, Economy, geopolitical interests, among others. Moving the entire system there is a plurality of actors, state and non-state, who work in favor of their interests (individual or collective) at different local, regional, national and international levels. In addition, there are still geographic constraints, which differentiate border regions around the world, facilitating or hindering the presence and development of human activities.

As dynamic as some border regions are, the regulations of limits and possibilities for their development, responsibilities with the security and defense of the territory, remain under the tutelage of national states. The performance of complex spaces and scenarios increasingly requires an understanding of the different dynamics that occur in these regions and integrated action strategies. Whether local integrations between the various state bodies and agencies with non-state entities, or integrations between international entities to address transnational issues. This Dossier sought to bring texts to show the diversity and complexity of these themes.

The issue of international migration is a current and global situation. In Brazil, Operação Acolhida is one of the facets that shows the challenges of state action on the issue. To address it, the dossier brings articles such as: “The securitization of the Brazilian border in the face of the Venezuelan migratory crisis: analysis of the process of border planning from the perspective of Control and Reception Operations” and “Venezuelan refugees on the borders of Brazil during the covid pandemic -19: an analysis based on security studies”, as well as an interview with Major General Antonio Manoel de Barros, operational coordinator of Operação Acolhida. In this line of humanitarian aid, but with an international view of Brazilian action, is the article “The Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its pillar of performance & accountability in United Nations peace operations: a Brazilian perspective”.

Political borders continue to limit the performance of the Security and Defense forces of national States, except in cases that act under the aegis of international organizations. But the presence and performance of these state actors have an important weight in the organization of these spaces. From this point of view, we have articles such as: “The expansion of criminal organizations on the borders of South America and the initiatives of the Brazilian State”; “Eradication of illicit crops as a strategy of the Federal Police to reduce the supply of marijuana in Brazil” and in the international scenario “It is not a priority”: an analysis of the prevention of terrorism in Portugal”. The classic theme of border disputes is also present in the dossier with the text “Dispute between Guyana and Suriname on maritime boundaries (2000-2007)”. In order to understand some issues related to the development of border areas and the weight of state actors, two texts were offered: “Stimuli and obstacles to economic and social integration at the border; the MERCOSUR border localities agreement”; and focusing on the Arco de Fronteiras Norte “The socio-economic reflex of the military presence in a municipality on the northern border: Barcelos-AM and the 3rd Battalion of Jungle Infantry”.

Knowing the complexity of such topics, the guest editors and the Meira Mattos Collection sought to bring some texts in order to foster debate with academia, society and agents working on some of the themes. Therefore, in addition to academic articles, texts from decision makers who have held positions in organizations operating in border areas and related topics were offered in this edition.

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