Latin American naval strategy and policy in the South Atlantic: Collaboration or confrontation?

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Introduction

• Competition for resources

• UNCLOS: es might right?

• Main actors: Argentina & Brazil
Structure

- Threat
- Foreign policy
- Defence policy
- Functions of navies
- Public support
Nature of the threat

• Competition for resources

• New ‘great game’

• Recent UNCLOS rulings disregarded
Natural resources

• Oil & Gas

• Seabed minerals

• Fisheries
Oil

‘Golden triangle’:  
• Gulf of Mexico  
• Gulf of Guinea  
• Brazil

56% drilling ships & platforms

Brazil’s Polygon  175 B barrels reserves
Deepwater Golden Triangle

Gulf of Mexico

West Africa

Brazil

Oil: 5-7 Billion Bbl
Gas: 10 Tcf

Oil: 8-10 Billion Bbl
Gas: 9 Tcf

Oil: 10-15 Billion Bbl
Gas: 5-8 Tcf

Estimated Deepwater Proven and Probably Reserves through 2012

Source: Inflow Systems, Offshore Engineering Magazine
Área total da província ______ 149.000 Km²
Área total concedida______ 45.615 Km² (30,6%)
Área não concedida_______ 103.385 Km² (69,4%)
Overfishing (IUU)

• Off Patagonian coast
• Ca. 4000 ships hovering at the limit of EEZ
• Squid fishing highly contaminating
• 15 years 69 ships captured, mostly Chinese
Where Chinese Vessels Fish
Estimated average annual catch by region, in metric tons, 2000-2011

- West Africa: 2.9 million tons, $7.15 billion
- Asia (excl. Japan, South Korea): 948,000 tons, $2.45 billion
- South Korea, Japan: 106,000 tons, $22 million
- Oceania: 198,000 tons, $71.2 million

Central and South America: 182,000 tons, $44 million
East Africa: 181,000 tons, $50.5 million
Antarctica: 48,000 tons, $7.8 million

- West Africa: 64% of total
- Asia (excl. Japan, South Korea): 21%
- Other: 15%
MAIN ACTORS
## Comparative statistics 2015

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<th>Argentina</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population m</td>
<td>42.4</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
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<td>Defence spending m $</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defence spending % GDP</td>
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Brazilian foreign policy

• Leading power in S Atlantic
• Influence in West Africa
• Keep out or balance foreign powers
Argentine foreign policy

• Pacific reivindication of islands

• “Legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty”

• Claims on Antarctica
President Macri

• Better relations with Britain
• Peace, democracy and free trade
Common aims

• Exploit natural resources

• Protect reserves

• Keep foreign powers out
Particular aims

• Argentina: overfishing, islands & Antarctica

• Brazil: Oils & seabed resources
Argentine defence policy

• Military capability inexistent

• Macri bent on restoring

• No public support
Brazilian defence policy

• Independence from foreign suppliers
• Navy as main support of Foreign Policy
• Ambitious programme
Brazilian navy functions

- Internal security and state-building
- Maritime policing
- Diplomacy
- Deterrence
Brazilian naval policy

• PROSUB: 4 + 1 submarines

• PROSUPER: 5 frig + 5 OPB + 1 repl.

• Refit of carrier Sao Paulo

• PRONAE: 2 aircraft carriers
Public support: Brazil

• Armed forces no priority spending
• Focus on territorial development
• Demand for increased internal security
• Amazonia Azul campaign
CONCLUSIONS

• Threat not immediate

• Brazil regional power

• UNCLOS at stake