Brazilian diplomacy and the legitimization of the Brazilian military dictatorship in the international arena (1964-1974)
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For a while, I believed that the day I would be writing this wouldn’t come. The final stage of a PhD can be very lonely, and it can be even worse if you are writing amidst a global health crisis and living in a country that is dealing daily with a government whose aim is to destruct everything we have ever built. Writing this thesis, then, became a small act of resistance. However, if I am writing these words today, it is because I was not alone, even during the worst of times.

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Fue por esa época que se le oyó decir: “La única diferencia actual entre liberales y conservadores es que los liberales van a misa de cinco y los conservadores van a misa de ocho”

(Gabriel García Marquez – Cien años de soledad)
RESUMO

Palavras-chave: Política Externa Brasileira; Ditadura Militar; História Diplomática; Guerra Fria
ABSTRACT

This dissertation aims to analyze the role of Brazilian diplomacy in legitimizing the Brazilian Military Dictatorship (1964 – 1985) abroad. We hypothesise that the autonomy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE), also known as Itamaraty, during the dictatorship period was due to the inherent conservatism of its structures and that there was a collaboration between sectors of the diplomatic corps with the authoritarian project of the military dictatorship. In this way, we seek to show not only how the diplomatic apparatus was used for purposes of public relations and propaganda abroad, but also the extent of the collaboration of sectors of the diplomatic corps in the elaboration of the dictatorship’s external communication strategy. Through extensive documentary research, this work will focus on the strategies used to circumvent the image of Brazil after the promulgation of Institutional Act no. 2, in 1965, and Institutional Act no. 5, in 1968. We believe that this thesis, by analyzing the role of the diplomatic corps in defending the image of the military dictatorship during its most authoritarian period, governed by the so-called hard-line, will contribute to understanding the depth of the relationship between Itamaraty and the Armed Forces and the influence of certain ideologies in the formulation of foreign policy, especially during the Cold War period.

**Keywords:** Brazilian Foreign Policy; Military dictatorship; Diplomatic History; Cold War
Covid-19 impacted the archival research necessary for this dissertation. When the virus outbreak occurred, I was researching at the U.S National Archives at College Park, Maryland. I was supposed to do research there from March 2, 2020, to March 20, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the archives closed on March 13, 2020, until further notice. Thus, my fieldwork in the United States was cut short in one week. I had planned to visit the American archives before doing archival research at the British National Archives in London. The British Archives were closed upon the first lockdown in the United Kingdom (March 23, 2020) and remained closed until it reopened with restrictions on July 21, 2020. The restrictions included previous booking, one visit per week and the researchers were able to look only at six folders per visit. Therefore, the research at the British National Archives, conducted in the last two months of my stay in London, was limited. The closure of the archives generated delays in the proposed research schedule; therefore, I am aware that Covid-19 might have impacted the outcome of this work.
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AERP – Assessoria Especial de Relações Públicas
AI-2 – Ato Institucional no. 2 (Institutional Act no. 2)
AI-5 – Ato Institucional no. 5 (Institutional Act no. 5)
AIB – Ação Integralista Brasileira (Brazilian Integralist Action)
CIEX – Centro de Informação do Exterior (Foreign Information Center)
CNV – Comissão Nacional da Verdade (National Truth Commission)
CSN – Conselho de Segurança Nacional (National Security Council)
DPo – Divisão Política (Itamaraty’s Political Division)
DPCP – Departamento político e cultural (Cultural and Political Department)
DSN – Doutrina de Segurança Nacional (National Security Doctrine)
ECLAC - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESG – Escola Superior de Guerra (Superior War College)
FBI – Frente Brasileira de Informações
IAHRC - Inter-American Human Rights Commission
IPES - Instituto de Pesquisa e Estudos Sociais
IRBr – Instituto Rio Branco (Rio Branco Institute)
IRD – Information Research Department
IRO – International refugee organization
JCI – Junta Coordenadora de Informações (Information Coordinating Board)
MCI – Movimento comunista internacional (International Communist Movement)
NSS – National Security Section (Seção de Segurança Nacional)
PCB – Partido Comunista do Brasil (Brazilian Communist Party)
PEI – Política Externa Independente (Independent Foreign Policy)
SEI – Serviços de Estudos e Informações (Studies and Information Service)
SFICI – Serviço Nacional de Informações e Contra-Informações (National Information and Counter-Information Service)
SNI – Serviço Nacional de Informações (National Information Service)
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
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