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**Brazilian diplomacy and the legitimization of the Brazilian military
dictatorship in the international arena (1964-1974)**

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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 Márquez – Cien años de soledad)

RESUMO

Este trabalho tem como objetivo analisar o papel da diplomacia brasileira na legitimação da Ditadura Militar brasileira (1964 – 1985) no exterior. Partimos da hipótese de que a autonomia do Ministério das Relações Exteriores (MRE), também conhecido como Itamaraty, no período da ditadura se deu pelo conservadorismo inerente às suas estruturas e que houve uma colaboração entre setores do corpo diplomático com o projeto autoritário da ditadura militar. Desta forma, buscamos mostrar não apenas como o aparato diplomático fora utilizado para fins de relações públicas e propaganda no exterior, mas também a extensão da colaboração de setores do corpo diplomático na elaboração da estratégia de comunicação externa da ditadura. Através de uma extensa pesquisa documental, este trabalho terá como foco as estratégias utilizadas para contornar a imagem do Brasil após a promulgação do Ato Institucional no. 2, em 1965, e do Ato Institucional no. 5, em 1968. Acreditamos que esta tese, ao analisar o papel do corpo diplomático na defesa da imagem da ditadura militar durante seu período mais autoritário, governado pela chamada linha-dura, contribuirá para entender a profundidade do relacionamento do Itamaraty com as Forças Armadas e a influência de determinadas ideologias na formulação da política externa, especialmente no período da Guerra Fria.

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 impact statement

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)
- CIEEX – 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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