

Brazil on the global stage: power, ideas, and the liberal international order. Edited by Oliver Stuenkel and Matthew M. Taylor. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2015. 228pp. Index. £65.00. ISBN 978 1 13749 164 0. Available as e-book.

One of the challenges facing Northern analysts grappling with Brazilian foreign policy is the need to understand the historical and cultural quirks driving contemporary decision-making. While there is an impressive corpus of scholarship addressing many facets of the history, public policy, security and cultural underpinnings of Brazilian foreign policy, much of it is in Portuguese. This is where the collection edited by Oliver Stuenkel and Matthew Taylor proves its value. Each of the chapters provides an excellent introduction to key background themes which continue to resonate in Brazil's diplomatic discourse and practice.

Stuenkel and Taylor begin the book with an excellent introduction, setting out why Brazil is often seen to challenge global order and what sort of role it aspires to on the international stage, often resulting in a contradiction between a multilateralist impulse and tight adherence to norms of sovereignty and autonomy. David Bosco and Oliver Stuenkel work through the resultant contradictions in their chapter on the growing gap between Brazil's rhetoric on multilateralism and the country's actual foreign policy practice. In particular, they argue that there is an ever-present tension between the sort of institutional frameworks Brazil would like to see and its desire for a growing pattern of South–South cooperation. The reasons for this tension are partially explained in João Maia and Matthew Taylor's exploration of the liberal tradition in Brazilian politics and society in the following chapter. In a lesson many analysts might note for the study of non-Northern countries, Maia and Taylor clearly demonstrate that Brazil has developed its own variant of liberalism, which causes traditional power centres difficulty because it follows the same general principles, but with a Brazilian twist that can result in surprising divergences from what is seen as a 'commonsense' understanding of some international issues.

Ralph Espach's chapter on Brazil, the United States and the international security order is an excellent primer on the antecedents and logic of contemporary Brazilian security policy. The central challenge he maps out for Brazil is the attempt to create a regional security architecture that excludes foreign powers such as the US, Europe and increasingly China. Interestingly, this does not rule out cooperation with these actors, but it does set boundaries on potential agreements and limits how far collaboration might go. Marcos Tourinho's chapter turns to the question of Brazil's stance on R2P, setting it in a revealing discussion of the country's attitude to the liberal norms of international society. He argues that the norms themselves are not the problem, but rather the hegemonic manner of their deployment by actors such as the United States. In effect, Tourinho explains what Brazil means when it calls for a greater democratization of global governance. Eve Bratman continues this theme with a discussion of Brazil and global environmental norms, arguing that Brazil's apparently supportive role in this area is a result more of the general international ambivalence towards the question than of proactive policy-making in Brasília.

Brazil's sometimes confusing engagement with the global nuclear order is the subject of Togzhan Kassenova's chapter, which maps out the role nuclear technology is seen to play in national development plans as well as the rationale for the 2010 attempt to broker a non-proliferation deal with Iran. The persistent themes of a liberal order applied evenly across all countries that guides this book is especially prevalent in Kassenova's discussion of Brazilian problems with a non-proliferation regime that restricts access to newcomers while singularly failing to bring about the disarmament of existing weapons holders. The

Book reviews

liberal theme is taken in a different direction in Arturo Porzecanski's chapter on the global economy. He points out an inherent contradiction, which sees Brazil having ambitions for global economic importance, but reluctance to move away from inward-looking development models redolent of autarky, despite a rhetoric of economic liberalism. André Villela builds on this theme in his chapter on Brazilian trade policy, arguing that policy-makers remain committed to having a relatively closed economy, which is ultimately causing more harm than good and restricting the pursuit of meaningful rather than expedient international trade options. The afterword by James Goldgeier highlights the importance of this book by concentrating on US uncertainty about the changing global order and the weakness of policy-makers in Washington when it comes to understanding Brazil's potential impact on the future of the international system.

Stuenkel and Taylor have done an admirable job putting together a key collection of background primers on contemporary Brazilian foreign policy. Readers grappling with Brazil's growing role in the world would be well advised to include this book on their reading lists if they wish to add an important level of nuance and context to their understanding of Brazilian foreign policy.

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