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Geopolitics, generals and the state in Brazil

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Abstract

This study traces the history of geopolitics in Brazil and the major contributions made by army generals, notably General Golbery do Couto e Silva. The relationship that developed in the 1950s between geopolitics, national security doctrine and military ideology is then examined. The paper argues that geopolitics was an important source of a theory of the state for the military regime, but that the specific role of geopolitics can be overstated. This analysis is then related to wider debates about military-authoritarian regimes in South America



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