

The State Of Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Relations

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Two frameworks

Mainstream Western international relations literature on the foreign policy of small countries, middle powers, and emerging actors, emphasizes that structure—i.e. the world system—determines agency—i.e. the individual state—thus limiting the alternatives available to the agent.^[1] A modified approach from the periphery may stress the highly-intertwined, mostly-complex, and seldom-preordained relationship between the international and the internal. In this sense, three external factors as well as three domestic factors are crucial. On the one hand, the distribution of power, the balance of threats, and the dynamics of ideas and institutions alike constitute essential elements that inform—as both constraints and opportunities—the policymakers. These three external factors operate in two distinctive levels: the global and the regional. On the other hand, the socio-economic model, the elite's preferences, ideological or otherwise, and the leadership style are significant when decisions are finally made. In short, the foreign policy in a southern state is conditioned, positively or negatively, by the simultaneous interaction of the domestic, the regional, and the global. Thus, options at the disposal of a traditionally peripheral country, especially middle powers, are more varied, intricate, and unexpected than thought by staunch realists in the Northern Hemisphere.

With respect to nuclear politics, there are several arguments to explain why certain countries opt to develop or acquire nuclear weapons. Most of these arguments underscore the importance of willingness on the part of the governing group or at the apex of the executive. Some arguments emphasize the relevance of opportunity, both abroad and at home, and some others point out to defense or identity considerations as the key motivating aspects. Few

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FULL TEXT:

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“The pacifying effect of this bilateral achievement—under the impulse of democracy, interdependence, and integration—was reinforced by the establishment in 1991 of the Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), the only one of its type in the world.”