

Editorial

Editor-in-Chief

Miguel Rocha de Sousa

Editors

Irene Viparelli

José Palmeira

Miguel Ângelo Rodrigues



This new issue of Perspectives tackles the issue of geopolitical strategy, when in a midst of war in Europe, that is the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, these issues have regained particular and utmost importance by the nature of geography and political will and intervention.

The **first article** by Yunus Emre Özigci, named *"On the Phenomenology of War and Peace Studying the Ukrainian Event"*, further explores the philosophical dimension of war and peace in Ukraine. This method by means of applying an ontological approach to Phenomenology, namely using the background from Husserl and Heidegger, tackles this issue and discusses it within an international relations framework. As the author frames in his article: *"The study of war (and of peace) is not exempt from the fundamental problem of the IR theories, which is none other than the act of theorising in a purely intersubjective field that brings serious ontological and temporal problems into the study."* This is a, yet prevalent, and up-to-date important reflection on today's world, amidst the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which is still ongoing.

The **second article**, by Tlhokomelo Rethabile Monethi, about: *"Is Africa ready to join the blockchain revolution? A feasibility study"*, is a clear focused assessment of blockchain technology. This emergent technology mostly applied on crypto-asset markets has led to many stampedes, bursts,

and even collapses. But is yet relevant, as a tool for practice as ledger registry, which might trace all transactions and thus, help on avoiding corruption, and adding value to the public sector service, by becoming more transparent and efficient. This exercise is done by assessing its feasibility within Africa, namely, in Nigeria, South Africa, and the Central African Republic.

The **third article** by Solomon I. Ifejika, studies *"Rising Incidences of Post-Electoral Disputes in Nigeria: Implications for Democracy"*, the post-electoral petitions, due to elections suspected malpractices and electoral disputes. The rule of law in Nigeria, specifically applied to electoral practices and results is scrutinized accordingly. This paper has a clear political science approach, intertwined with legal electoral practice and is worth reading as a particular case study in Africa, Nigeria. The author presents paths to more transparent electoral practices and thus a more stable democracy, with yet less post-electoral petitions.

The **fourth article** by Filipe Silva Fernandes, under the title: *"The civic and political participation of young people in Portugal"*, also presents a political science approach, based upon a questioner untangling the mystery of low political participation and intervention by youngsters.

The results for all EU are known of low political engagement, even with social networks, media, and political rallies and demonstrations. It is

presented that in Portugal youngsters do tend to participate even lower than in the rest of the EU. This result, which does not come as a surprise, might also explain low economic development and low political and civil sentiment and engagement. The results might explain and explore ways to curtail those losses, and bring and foster a clear and higher civil and political engagement in Portugal. This essay might be also relevant to some Mediterranean or Southwest Europe countries.

The **fifth piece** is a book review, by resuming two books in Portuguese: *Gaspar, Carlos*. (2019). "O Regresso da Anarquia: Os Estados Unidos, a Rússia, a China e a Ordem Internacional." And *Gaspar, Carlos*. (2020). "O Mundo de Amanhã". These books are relevant for an established scholar on the field of International Relations.

Thus, from the first article we start from a philosophical/phenomenological view of the IR world on the Ukraine war and peace, then, we approach the issue of technology (blockchain in Africa), also on a relevant yet global IR approach. The other two articles, we have a political science approach, respectively on Nigeria, electoral petitions, and on low youngsters political and civil engagement in Portugal.

So, for all being said, this *Perspectivas* issue, is a journey across the geopolitical world, from Europe, US and Africa, where we all get richer and more acquainted with relevant research in political science, international relations, international law and even economics.

The editorial team.



Miguel Rocha de Sousa is the Editor-in-Chief of *Perspectivas, Journal of Political Science*. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Évora, Portugal and a BSc and MSc in Economics from Nova School of Business and Economics, Lisbon, Portugal. Presently he is an assistant professor and was department head of Economics at Évora (tenured), after having also taught at

Nova, and having been a visiting professor at University of Dili, East Timor, and Methodist University, Luanda, Angola. He is an integrated researcher at the Research Center in Political Science (CICP) and a collaborator of the Center for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics of the University of Évora. His areas of specialization are political economy, economic growth and development, land reform, international organizations, with both a theoretical and applied focus on Europe and Latin America, and has also done some work on econophysics and mathematical methods in economics. He is an associate of SEDES, AEA-American Economic Association, and also of SASE, Society for Advancement of Socio-Economics. Was also elected as Chair of Research Committee (RC35) on Technology and Development at International Political Science Association (IPSA) for the term 2023-2025.



Miguel Ângelo Rodrigues is an Editor of *Perspectivas, Journal of Political Science*. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Minho. He is currently Deputy Director of the CICP (Research Centre in Political Science) at the School of Economics and Management, University of Minho in Braga, Portugal. He holds a PhD in Administration Sciences from the University of Minho. His

research focuses on issues of public management, governance of public-private partnerships, and local governments. He has also worked in the areas of electoral participation and citizen involvement in local management. He has published articles in *Public Choice*, *Local Government Studies*, *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, and *Journal of Urban Affairs*. He has also published several chapters in books and in other publications in Portuguese.



Irene Viparelli is an Editor of *Perspectivas, Journal of Political Science*. She has a Ph.D. in Ethics and Political and Legal Philosophy from the University of Salerno and is a Specialist in Political Theory, Political Science and Political Philosophy. Between 2010 and 2017 she has developed a post-doctoral project in Political Science, founded by FCT. Presently she is an assistant professor at University of

Évora, an integrated member of the Research Center in Political Science (CICP) and a collaborator of University of Beira Interior.



José Palmeira is an Editor of *Perspectivas, Journal of Political Science*. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minho, with Ph.D in Political Science and International Relations and is an integrated member of the Research Center in Political Science. The main focus of his research is in the field of Comparative Politics, with application in the areas of Political Science (political systems) and International Relations (political actors), having as main analytical tool Geopolitics and Strategy and as study areas the Atlantic and the Lusophone space.

Atlantic and the Lusophone space.