

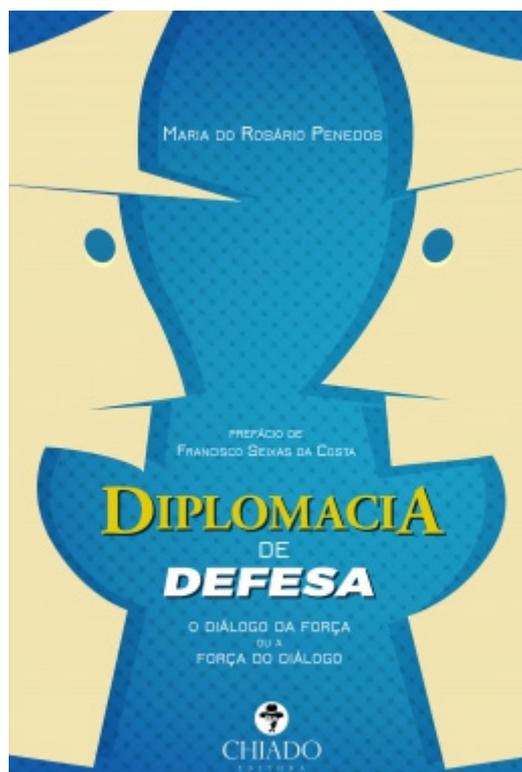
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Book review

DIPLOMACIA DE DEFESA - O Diálogo da Força ou a Força do Diálogo (Defence Diplomacy - The Dialogue of Power or The Power of Dialogue). Author: Maria do Rosário Penedos. Publisher: CHIADO. 1st Edition, April 2017. ISBN: 978-989-774-213-2 (154 pages).



Maria do Rosário Penedos was born in Lisbon on 19 October 1966. She graduated from Lusíada University in 1992 with a degree in International Relations and began her career in the Portuguese Ministry of Defence the following year.

For nearly twenty years, Penedos was responsible for coordinating bilateral defence relations with Western European countries, Asia and America at the Directorate-General for National Defence Policy. She led the negotiation of several cooperation agreements and protocols with countries in Europe and South America. She organised and coordinated bilateral cooperation activities with these countries, participated in the relevant joint committees and took part in numerous bilateral meetings and international conferences. Penedos was the auditor of the National Defence and National Foreign Policy Courses before going on to work as Director of the Communication and Public Relations Office in the Ministry of National Defence and subsequently holding the post of Adviser to the Minister of National Defence.

After a leave of absence abroad, Penedos returned to the Ministry of National Defence in 2010 having completed an MA in International Relations at NOVA University Lisbon with a dissertation thesis entitled *DEFENCE DIPLOMACY - THE DIALOGUE OF POWER OR THE POWER OF DIALOGUE*.

The book, published in April 2017, is a didactic genre intended to teach and disseminate ideas in an artistic way, with a carefully crafted language and drawing on philosophical insights. In addition, using a clear and objective style, the author uses prose to analyse, interpret and assess the subject matter.

Although Defence Diplomacy has existed under other names and forms for many decades, it is only recently that it has been afforded the space and recognition it deserves, both in political and academic terms. Accordingly, the book seeks to recognise the role of Defence Diplomacy in achieving important foreign policy objectives, and present a definition that not only reflects how it is exercised, but also what it actually is: the non-violent use of military capabilities and resources by the ministry of defence and the armed forces in cooperation activities in partner, ally and strategically important countries.

The main question the author poses — “Can Defence Diplomacy be successful without credible and dissuasive armed forces?” — was the starting point for her analysis of Defence Diplomacy as an instrument for asserting autonomy in foreign policy while taking into account the need to adapt to the new economic, political and social context.

To answer this, she used a methodology based, firstly, on the consultation and qualitative analysis of conceptual writings on two important aspects of the subject: development and security. She then sought to interpret the concept of Defence Diplomacy and analyse its evolution and implementation before concluding with a practical-approach to the concept. In addition, she analysed, sourced and researched works on the subject found on the Internet, articles published in specialised journals and newspapers and in reports and interviews.

Diplomacia de Defesa - O Diálogo da Força ou a Força do Diálogo (Defence Diplomacy - The Dialogue of Power or The Power of Dialogue) consists of four chapters, in which basic concepts such as globalisation, security, foreign policy and diplomacy are presented, in addition to the role, development and evolution of the concept of Defence Diplomacy.

The first chapter provides a magnificent overview of the conceptual evolution of globalisation, security and diplomacy in the aftermath of the Cold War, and how this evolution has contributed to the emergence of Defence Diplomacy as a key foreign policy instrument for states.

In the second chapter, the author highlights the role of Defence Diplomacy in conflict prevention, the promotion of democracy and as a soft power, underscoring its contribution to the field of preventive diplomacy and its potential role in bringing the armed forces of states closer, as well as the armed forces and civil society.

In the third chapter, Penedos addresses and elaborates on the role of Defence Diplomacy as a foreign policy instrument for states, and analyses this form of diplomacy, its implementation and development using practical examples in countries such as the United Kingdom, New Zealand and China.

Finally, the last chapter assesses the Ministry of Defence's contribution to Portuguese foreign policy, and identifies the various components making up Defence Diplomacy, before concluding with a prospective essay on Defence Diplomacy in Portugal, for which purpose the author interviewed political, diplomatic, academic and military figures with experience in the subject. In her work, *Maria do Rosário Penedos* shows us that Defence Diplomacy is one instrument available to states for the implementation of foreign policy. The scope, extent and organisation of these instruments will depend on the circumstances and interests of each country. However, it has been demonstrated that both the exchange of knowledge between countries and good personal relations between the countries' senior state officials are important factors in forging good international relations.

The practical examples of Defence Diplomacy described in chapter 3 of the book, relating to the UK, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China, were a clever and wise choice. The UK, because it was the first country to present the theory and application of this defence concept. New Zealand, because it is a small, maritime country with no territorial disputes, with a modern parliamentary democracy and a well structured military organisation. And, unlike the others, China, because it is a vast territory governed by a communist regime and with a highly politicised military organisation. Thus, the reader can clearly see that the national goals and interests of the countries studied are different, but that they all use diplomacy to achieve their foreign policy objectives.

By way of conclusion, new areas of Defence Diplomacy, such as the creation of sustainable cooperative relations to build mutual trust and transparency in defence relations, have led most of the world's countries to expand their Defence Diplomacy policies to include broader foreign policy and security objectives, such as secur-

ing peace and stability, promoting common security and combating transnational threats.

In short, this is a timely and contemporary work; a must-read, not only for those engaged in the field of diplomacy and defence, but also for international relations academics, and can serve as a starting point for further exploration of the subject.