

Ms, Débora Bedim Loures, Brazilian Army, Army Command and General Staff College, From Haiti to the Congo: The Evolution of Brazil's Role in Peacekeeping Operations and Its Place in National Defense Policy.

This article aims to analyze Brazil's participation in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations between 2000 and 2023. The objective is to identify the factors that influence Brazil's decision to participate—or not—in peace missions through the deployment of troops. The research adopts a comparative and empirical approach, examining two distinct cases: MINUSTAH (Haiti) and MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Haiti represents a landmark case in which Brazil deployed large troop contingents, while in the Congo, Brazilian involvement was limited to military observers and staff officers serving in administrative functions. Drawing on official defense documents, UN reports, and specialized literature, the article seeks to identify patterns in Brazil's behavior based on risk perception, strategic relevance, and alignment with national defense policy. Over the years, Brazil has opted to participate in missions with low operational risk and high diplomatic potential, as exemplified by MINUSTAH. In contrast, it has avoided engagement in high-intensity armed conflict scenarios with low strategic relevance, as in the case of MONUSCO. Despite the prominent role played by Brazil in MINUSTAH, its refusal to contribute troops to other peacekeeping missions signals an important shift in the country's defense policy and multilateral diplomacy. Understanding Brazil's patterns of participation is therefore essential for assessing the limits and possibilities of the country's role in international security, particularly in a context of shifting geopolitics and the evolving agenda of peace operations. Furthermore, the study contributes to the broader debate on the role of middle powers in international security, focusing specifically on how Brazil balances ambitions for international visibility with a preference for low military exposure. In this regard, national defense policy is understood as a central element shaping the country's external action.