



The construction of defense studies as a science in Brazil

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1 INTRODUCTION

Defense Studies in Brazilian academia is somewhat recent, which means that much remains to be discovered and investigated. Although many defense themes - defense economics, military technology, strategic studies, among others - are addressed and, therefore, of great interest to analysts in the field, it should be noted that, in relation to the epistemological structure, much is left to be desired. When dealing with Defense Studies one can glimpse the fragmentation of the area, which results in the absence of a clear vision of its harmonic dimension, as well as in the lack of necessary scientific rigor (DOMINGOS NETO, 2014).

Only after the decline of the military regime did the first concerns of Defense Studies flourish as a science, especially in relation to the construction of its meaning and understanding. Furthermore, the very term Defense inaugurates the new constitutional order, since during the previous governments this expression was not included in official state documents. In this sense, the National Security Doctrine focused on the threat of the internal enemy - the one who rebelled against the domestic social order (DOMINGOS NETO, 2006).

During the redemocratization phase, by building instruments that would enable military autonomy, without harming the possible harmony with the actions of civilian specialists, the debates on themes that are part of the area of international security and defense were practically centered in the military academy, especially when the subject was the threats posed by internal enemies. In other words, the redemocratization scenario had a significant impact on Defense Studies, since it was only with the end of the military regime, and with the rise of the democratic political order, that discussions on studies in the area flourished in a still incipient way, but revealing to be of great importance (OLIVEIRA, 2005; SAINT-PIERRE, 2013).

Added to this is the fact that scientific concerns in relation to the area of Defense are not characteristic of all the States that make up the international order, since the great powers or stronger States are the most interested in the subject, especially when it comes to issues involving the balance of power, a characteristic element of the geopolitical chessboard of the international system (EARLE, 1940).

Defense is an instrument whose scope is to guarantee resistance and even the elimination of risks. However, it is not limited to internal threats, which is why it is interested in external aspects that present



risks to national sovereignty. In this sense, the understanding of the terms Security and National Defense, based on the National Defense Policy, is necessary.

The National Defense Policy (BRASIL, 2005) considers security as "the condition that allows the country to preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity, the realization of its national interests, free of pressures and threats of any nature, and the guarantee to citizens of the exercise of constitutional rights and duties". In turn, "National Defense is the set of measures and actions of the State, with emphasis on the military expression, for the defense of territory, sovereignty and national interests against potential or manifest external threats.

It will be noted that the internationalization of Defense Studies is due to its very nature and scope. Defense Studies have not ceased to focus on war studies, given that the international system is marked by anarchy, that is, the absence of a central authority and above states, which is why war presents itself as a threat (DOMINGOS NETO, 2014).

Considering the importance of the theme, the scope of this article is to present, first, the inauguration of Defense Studies in its historical terms. Subsequently, the construction of the Defense Studies field will be analyzed. Finally, the epistemological construction of the field will be examined. Therefore, in order to guide this research, the following question is posed: is it possible to approach Defense Studies as a scientific area? As a hypothesis for the possible research problem, we have that: it is possible to approach Defense issues as a scientific discussion, but to speak of a Defense Science is something that requires a clinical eye and well-defined methodological criteria.

In this perspective, the hypothetical deductive method and bibliographical research were chosen in order to develop a study with primacy. Therefore, the present article aims at analyzing the efforts employed in the national sphere for the construction of Defense Studies as a scientific area, starting from the current constitutional order. Finally, it is worth mentioning that as primary sources, we will use official documents that refer to the theme being studied; and, as to secondary sources, we will use doctrinal works and scientific articles that are relevant to the academic area.

2 THE INAUGURATION OF DEFENSE STUDIES IN BRAZILIAN SOCIETY

The 1988 Federal Constitution inaugurated the debates on issues involving the field of Defense, which ceased to be restricted to the role of the state and became something of academic interest to all. Regarding the normative elements that made it possible to expand Defense Studies in the Brazilian context, we have the 1988 Constitution, the National Defense Policy (PDN), the National Defense Strategy (END), and the institution of the Ministry of Defense (DOMINGOS NETO, 2014).

When it comes to the constitutional text, it is clear that it is the basic document that defines the role of the Armed Forces, which portrays the political reality of a country based on the postulates of a Democratic State of Law, which presumes the safeguarding of sovereignty and fundamental rights. Article 142 of the constitutional text states that the Armed Forces are composed of the Navy, Army and Air Force,



and are permanent and regular national institutions, (...) destined to defend the homeland, guarantee the constitutional powers and law and order (BRASIL, 1988).

Even though the Constitution reveals the Constituent Assembly's concern about the role of the Armed Forces since 1988, it should be noted that the Ministry of Defense was only established in 1999 (OLIVEIRA, 2005). With the birth of this institution comes significant changes in the country's military structure that will subsequently impact studies in the area. In other words, the creation of the Ministry of Defense, which enabled the Navy, Army and Air Force to aggregate into a single institution, subordinated to the President of the Republic. Moreover, the creation of such an institution was based on the strengthening of democracy, since it expanded the space for civilian participation, in a significant way, on Defense issues (OLIVEIRA, 2005; SAINT-PIERRE, 2013).

The Ministry of Defense (MD) was created on June 10, 1999, replacing the Armed Forces General Staff and the Military Ministries. The former Ministries of the Forces were transformed into the Navy, Army and Air Force Commands, which are headed by General Officers in the highest ranks of the military career: Fleet Admiral, Army General, and Air Lieutenant Brigadier, respectively (BRASIL, 2020, p. 41).

Among the MD and Armed Forces' competencies, there is a wide range of issues of great sensitivity and complexity for the people of the country, such as Defense Studies (BRASIL, 2020). As proof of this, and with the purpose of reinforcing the new political conjuncture, the regulation of State Defense policy was established through the National Defense Policy (PDN) (BRASIL, 2005), as well as in the National Defense Strategy (END) document, emphasizing the indispensability of the entire society to be involved in matters related to Defense. In sum, it can be seen that Defense as a subject of population participation is something that dates back a few decades, and already reveals its fruits, especially in the debates that take place and in the plurality of actors involved in the discussions, from military personnel to civilian experts (BRASIL, 2008).

Based on the PDN, the END defines, in a clear and objective manner, the strategies that should guide the Brazilian society in homeland defense actions. It deals with the bases on which the country's defense must be structured, as well as indicates the articulations that must be conducted within all instances of the three Powers and the interaction between the various levels that conduct these actions with non-governmental segments of the country (BRAZIL, 2020, p. 34).

The National Defense Policy, of 1996, is the document that provides guidelines on the organization of national defense, national policy on the subject, and how the state and society must proceed in more delicate situations, such as the occurrence of armed conflicts. Likewise, the Defense White Paper reveals the government's position when the subject is Defense, and is, therefore, a document that is part of the national Defense strategy, which allows for the budget and planning of the sector. Moreover, the Complementary Law n. 136/2010, regulates the matter addressed by the Defense White Paper, which comprises: (i) the strategic scope; (ii) the national defense policy; (iii) the national defense strategy; (iv) the modernization of the regular forces of the state; (v) the rationalization and adaptation of defense



structures; defense economy; the command structure of the Armed Forces; and action in peace operations and humanitarian aid (DOMINGOS NETO, 2014).

The PDN is the highest level conditioning document for the planning of actions aimed at the country's defense. Focused primarily on external threats, it establishes objectives for the preparation and employment of all expressions of National Power, in favor of National Defense (BRASIL, 2020, p. 34).

That said, of all the documents mentioned above, the National Defense Policy is the most significant of Brazil's planning and defense documents, since it encompasses a significant range of issues related to defense and national security, making clear, in its guidelines, the significance of the intertwining of science, technology, and innovation, in the strategic aspects that deal with the advancement of research activities, the production and implementation of new technologies, and the increase in the production capacity of defense articles (BRASIL, 2005).

This is visible in 2008, when the operational and technological development - resulting from the union between the National Defense Strategy and the National Defense Science, Technology and Innovation Policy - reveals the elaboration of a strategy that conglomerates national projects. As an example, there is the creation of the Department of Defense Products, which is linked to the Department of Industrial Science and Technology, as well as the Productive Development Policy, which defined the defense industrial complex as one of the strategic areas; and, finally, the Brazil Maior Plan, a new governmental action that, besides aiming at the development of the defense sector, also instituted protective measures for national defense business activities (BRASIL, 2008).

In this sense, the National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, while seeking to encourage sectors related to research, infrastructure and technology, also demonstrates that the defense industrial complex is an agenda that requires priority when it comes to Defense Studies. To this end, the Army Technological Center is an example of a Military Organization that develops and seeks partnerships with civilian industry in order to supply its demands, according to the following interests and priorities of the Land Force:

Armament and Ammunition, Missiles and Rockets, Military Vehicles (Armored and Non-Armored), Remotely Piloted Systems, Advanced Materials (Composites, Carbon and Energetic), Information and Communications Technology (Radars, Military Radios and Optronics), Virtual Simulators, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (BRASIL, 2020, p. 82).

Furthermore, the Technological Innovation and Management Agency, which operates in the fields of technological prospection and scientific-technological knowledge management, disseminates the culture of innovation for the increasing participation of the national society in Science, Technology and Innovation issues of interest to the Army and in the development of dual technologies (BRASIL, 2020). In this way, it highlights the indispensability of research sectors linked to universities, which have significant importance for scientific studies that are covered by the Defense area (DA ROCHA, 2015).



It is important to mention the Institutes of Aeronautics and Space and of Advanced Studies, which aim to develop scientific-technological solutions through Research, Development, Innovation, Launch Operations, and Technological Services in aeronautical, space, and defense systems, in addition to expanding scientific knowledge and the mastery of strategic technologies, all to strengthen the Brazilian Aerospace Power (BRASIL, 2020).

It is noteworthy that the efforts undertaken in the technological sector for the constitution of a defense system in the country reinforce the importance of understanding Defense Studies as a science, in order to make effective the achievement of a scientific and technological conjuncture capable of satisfying state demands. In this sense, there is a joint action between the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, which highlights the role of promoting projects related to the area of technology (OLIVEIRA, 2005).

Furthermore, military education institutions, such as the Military Institute of Engineering and the Aeronautical Technological Institute, also contribute to the development in science and technology, through *stricto sensu* graduate programs, providing the possibility of entry for military personnel and civilians, in courses such as Defense Engineering (BRASIL, 2020).

With the new regime of the Brazilian Defense structure, a research field dedicated to the study of issues related to the theme was formed. It is worth mentioning the incentive to research through the Pro-defense program, the researchers in the Postgraduation courses at the various Higher Education Institutions, and the academic associations that study the subject and promote academic debates (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN NATIONAL DEFENSE (PRO-DEFESA) - Created in 2005, from an agreement signed with the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), Pro-Defense is an initiative that seeks to foster cooperation between civilian and military Higher Education Institutions, with a view to the implementation of scientific-technological research projects, aimed at the training of specialized personnel in the area of National Defense, thus contributing to develop and consolidate Brazilian thought in the area. In 2019, the fourth edition of the Pro-Defense program began, lasting four years (BRASIL, 2020, p.125).

The Pro-Defense Program aims at the development of Brazilian thought in the area of defense, by encouraging the launching of research and training projects at the post-graduate level in National Defense. Therefore, it is a program of great importance when the objective is to promote scientific studies on the themes that involve the area of Defense. In other words, one of the scopes of this program is the promotion of graduate programs in Defense, in order to stimulate scientific production and academic exchange (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

Pro-Defense seeks to contemplate several areas that are covered by National Defense, from aspects related to territorial integrity, sovereignty and national interests. Therefore, the relationship between Defense and the use of technology is commendable and reveals the interdisciplinarity and the possible



exchange between networks of researchers and other intellectuals interested in the area (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

It is noticeable that educational institutions seek progress and plurality in scientific research, through *stricto sensu* graduate programs, related to Defense Studies and its doctrine, creating opportunities for both military personnel and civilians. Examples in the military sector are: (i) the Army Command and Staff School, with the Meira Mattos Institute; (ii) the Air Force Command and Staff School, located at the Air Force University; (iii) the Naval War College; and (iv) the Superior War College (BRASIL, 2020).

In 2012, the Army Command and General Staff School obtained authorization from the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (Capes) for the operation of its academic master's degree. In the same year the Air Force University started its professional master's degree in Aerospace Sciences and, finally, in 2013, the Naval War College had its professional master's degree in Maritime Studies recommended (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

Also noteworthy is the formation of the Brazilian Association of Defense Studies (ABED), whose purpose is to bring together researchers in the area of National Defense, National and International Security. Some of the other subjects taken into consideration by the Association are war and peace, military history, relations between the Armed Forces and society, among others. ABED is the result of the recognition of the importance of the area in the world academic scene and its considerable expression in Brazil (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

Besides Pro-Defense, it is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Defense develops other programs, projects and activities to cooperate with National Defense Goal number 6, which defines the goal of increasing the involvement of Brazilian society in National Defense matters, such as (i) academic congresses on National Defense, with lectures, study groups and debates, providing significant interactions between professors and students from civilian and military institutions; (ii) Extension Courses on National Defense, aimed at undergraduate and graduate students, as well as other people interested in National Defense Studies; (iii) Competitions of monographs, dissertations and theses on National Defense, in order to motivate the production of academic research, especially among civilians, in the area of Defense and Security, both nationally and internationally; and (iv) the Brazilian Antarctic Program (BRASIL, 2020).

The development of these actions aims to increase the perception of the Brazilian society, especially the academic environment, on the importance of National Defense for the country. Thus, it seeks to increase research, debates and events in order to generate a solid Defense culture within Brazilian society (BRASIL, 2020, p. 125).

An example of the aforementioned contests is the Tiradentes Award, which aims to stimulate the production of academic studies on issues of interest to the MD, and to contribute to the construction of public policies in the sector.



The contest also intends to encourage the dissemination in the country and abroad of the results and products derived from the partnership between CAPES and the Ministry of Defense, which also carry out, together, the Program of Support to Teaching and Scientific and Technological Research in National Defense, the Program of Research Abroad in Strategic Areas for National Defense, and the Program of Academic Cooperation in National Defense (BRASIL, 2022).

Meanwhile, public and private universities develop significant studies in the area with study and research groups, such as the Center for Strategic Studies on Defense and Security at the Federal University of São Carlos and the Defense and International Security Study Group, composed of an inter-institutional program involving UNESP, UNICAMP and PUC-SP, as well as specific graduate programs. It is pertinent to mention the Program for Strategic Defense and Security Studies, at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, as well as the Program for International Strategic Studies, at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, with a research line on international security.

It is important to note that research in the area of defense is essential, since it is no longer viable for it to be debated only by state agents. Democracy comes from the participation of society, represented by the largest number of segments in the construction of a debate about the country's defense policy. The inclusion of the academic environment in this debate is a reflection of this vision, as well as the affirmation of the democratic regime depends on the development and diversification of the Defense policy and its actors (BRASIL, 2005; OLIVEIRA, 2005).

3 THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIELD OF DEFENSE STUDIES

Understandings about epistemology

Defense Studies constitute a recently formed sector of research and theoretical development in Brazil, when compared to other fields of knowledge. As they are in progress, they are undoubtedly studies that present possible inconsistencies and require improvement, which demands the effective collaboration of various sectors of society, such as the academic, political and, especially, the military. The latter are of particular importance since, based on them, variations in intensity may occur in cooperation efforts with civilians, whether due to political issues or for cyclical reasons. Naturally, among the civilians, the best among the many scientists in the country emerge, whether in the field of political science or strategic studies, both of which are more affected by the Defense field.

Starting with the nature of the field, it is possible to note that defense-related studies are commonly identified by nomenclatures older than *defense research*, such as *military sciences*, *military studies*, and *strategic studies*. In all these definitions there are elements of interdisciplinarity that can be observed in the light of pure and applied sciences or human and social sciences (MEDEIROS, 2015, p. 46).

In this vein, regardless of the nomenclature given, whether new or old, the theories in any area, even if interdisciplinary, need to be tested, confirmed or refuted, in order to become part of a given research



program. In Defense Studies there is no reason to be different, especially in the Brazilian academic environment. In this sense, Duarte and Mendes (2015) address that theories must have relationships:

Similarly, a theory is not falsified or eliminated but for the emergence of a better theory, with (at least partially) corroborated empirical surplus. It gives rise to a world of science in which there are no isolated theories, but theories that succeed each other and relate to each other, constituting a scientific research program (DUARTE; MENDES, 2015, p. 134).

To reach the aforementioned level, at the national level, there is extensive demand for investigations and research that promote the collective process of knowledge construction in strategic studies, allowing more students to take advantage of them, especially at the graduate level. However, the growth of this field must be processed with caution, because academically the quality of the productions is more important than the quantity of publications. With this in mind, it is relevant to emphasize that Duarte and Mendes (2015) cite the need for strategic studies to be produced with zeal:

[...], Strategic Studies cannot be used in a spurious way [...], the belittling or lack of zeal of academics with regard to how strategic studies are produced cannot be considered acceptable by any argument (DUARTE; MENDES, 2015, p. 130).

Furthermore, it is important to establish our own national constructions so that the interests frankly instituted are ratified before the international expertise, whose community can eventually be taken advantage of in order to take standard, model or epistemic influence, which will have something relevant to contribute (MEDEIROS, 2015).

The field of Defense Studies

The field of Defense Studies reveals an evolution in a gradual manner, that is, the practice of Defense and its academic area are related, one influencing the other in the formation of rules and institutionalization of processes. However, it is stressed that Defense Studies is not a fully complete area, moreover, it is incipient studies, which does not hinder its importance (DA CUNHA; MIGON, 2019).

Thus, when it comes to the epistemic approach of Defense Studies, it is clear that the formation of a new area of knowledge must take into account phenomena that are external to the state's domestic environment, especially in the area of defense interest. Moreover, national instruments are also of great importance for the definition of the epistemic community of the referred field (HAAS, 1992; MEDEIROS, 2015).

It is noteworthy that the epistemic community is understood by a group that has the same beliefs in the methods of knowledge construction. Therefore, the epistemic community requires a certain degree of rationality, being able to allow the inclusion of different groups of intellectuals who are affected by the same object of study (HAAS, 1992).

At first, it can be said that the Study of Defense is the fruit of various fields of knowledge, especially Political Theory, International Relations and Human Sciences. However, the exact sciences are still



important to the area. Therefore, one can affirm that political science, engineering, technological advances in the military environment, strategic studies, among others, reveal their intrinsic connection with Defense Studies (RAZA, 2004).

In summary, the Defense Studies still does not have a well-defined space in terms of methodology and construction as an autonomous science, precisely because the necessary distinction between Defense and Security needs to be better understood. In this sense, Brazil plays a very important role in relation to the effort in building Defense Studies as a scientific area of national relevance (MEDEIROS, 2015; DA CUNHA; MIGON, 2019).

It is emphasized that this concerns the epistemological effort of the community that aims to establish the definition of the axes of production of the knowledge of the area, that is, the very construction of the status of scientificity, since the area of Defense Studies has not yet reached the status of *science*, which is why the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) does not consider Defense Studies as scientific knowledge per se. Therefore, it will be observed that this is not a simple issue to be evaluated (BRASIL, 2014).

It is emphasized that area of study is different from field of study, since the former concerns the set of intellectuals who turn to the same theoretical substrate, that is, to the same ontological, epistemological, and methodological source; while the field of study concerns the set of intellectuals seek to analyze a common object of study (MARQUES; FUCCILLE, 2015).

Regarding the institutionalization of Defense Studies as an area, the National Research Council (CNPQ), when establishing the scientific areas recognized in Brazil through the Table of Knowledge Areas (TAC), did not list Defense Studies in its list. Considering the fact that the TAC has not been revised so far, several new scientific areas were not inserted in it (BRASIL, 2005).

Although there are many researchers and intellectuals dedicated to Defense Studies, which enables the publication of several works on the subject in question, as well as several debates and reflections, when it comes to the valuation of this field of knowledge, it is still not something concrete and defined (RAZA, 2004).

Moreover, the themes worked within Defense Studies, besides revealing fragmentation, makes clear the care that must be taken to avoid excessive isolation, that is, the dialogue of Defense Studies with other related areas must be possible, and something elementary, since it contributes to the consolidation of the Defense area as scientific knowledge itself (BRASIL, 2014; MEDEIROS, 2015).

In light of this, the role of the University -as a knowledge-producing space-, reveals its role in deliberating the agenda and debates on the issues of academic relevance, through methodological concern, in addition to the production of the epistemological and ontological postulates of scientific knowledge - which translates into the establishment of criteria and construction of doctrines that enrich the academic debate (DA CUNHA; MIGON, 2019).



Defense is related to the area of international affairs with respect to its external dimension. Therefore, it is in the nature of Defense to be related to the political dimension and to academic production. The former is concerned with the production and maintenance of the regular forces - Army, Navy and Air Force - of the country, while the latter is concerned with laying the intellectual foundations of the area, although it is not a function that is reserved only for the space of academies (EARLE, 1940; MEDEIROS, 2015).

In these terms, one can affirm that the Defense is not bound to the epistemic limits of the area, but, this does not prevent the due care that should be taken with the possible excessive isolation of it - in an attempt to reaffirm its scientific character -, as well as the excessive maintenance of the fragmentation of the themes worked within its studies (RAZA, 2004).

The epistemological construction of Defense Studies

The epistemological construction of an area is concerned with establishing the foundations that enable the clear and distinct view between science and other forms of knowledge, which involves a concern about (i) the presence or not of the scientific method adopted; (ii) criteria for demarcation of the area; (iii) construction of theories and tests for their verification, among others. In other terms, when it refers to epistemic issues, one realizes that it concerns the discussion of what constitutes Science (DA ROCHA, 2015).

Therefore, when analyzing what constitutes Defense Studies as a science, it is important, a priori, to highlight what science is. In short, an opinion or hunch is different from a subject based on probative elements about it, that is, a solid and constructed analysis. Therefore, science is not guesswork. Therefore, the question is: is it possible to approach Defense Studies as a scientific area?

It is possible to approach Defense issues as a scientific discussion, that is, a scientific discussion on issues concerning Defense is something fully possible. However, to speak of a Defense Science is something that requires more care and methodological criteria. Initially, it should be noted that Defense Science cannot be understood in the same epistemological terms as the exact sciences. This does not prevent the possible dialogue between the areas (MEDEIROS, 2015).

Therefore, the neuralgic point of the debate is where Defense Studies is located, since it is an eclectic field of knowledge. In this sense, several fields contribute to the very construction of Defense Studies as a discipline, among them International Relations, Defense Economics, Logistics, Strategic Studies. Thus, it will be observed that the scientific discussion when the subject is Defense flows into various debates on typical problems of defense policy (DOMINGOS NETO, 2013; MEDEIROS, 2015).

In view of this, it becomes possible to better understand the epistemic dimension of Defense Studies, as a task of dialogue whose scope is centered on the understanding and resolution of the vicissitudes related to the policies that surround the theme. However, it is noteworthy that the objectivity of science is not exempt from the subjective element, given that when selecting the epistemic area,



especially in relation to its study cutout, it is visible the presence of the subjective, which concerns the belief or the reason that justifies the achievement of the proposed research object that is based on the formulation of reality (DA ROCHA, 2015).

Defense Studies present some resistance to be recognized in their epistemic role within the academies. However, in order to understand the efforts to make this epistemic purpose concrete, it is essential to analyze what is understood by epistemic area (DOMINGOS NETO, 2006). This refers to the set of specific methods that form the theoretical framework, as well as a specific object of study. Therefore, it can be stated that Defense Studies have the object of study as a common element, and the methodologies portray the various epistemic areas that make it possible to study the object of study from various lenses and theories (DOMINGOS NETO, 2013). Therefore, this reveals the richness that interdisciplinarity brings to the epistemic community (DOMINGOS NETO, 2013).

Moreover, it cannot be said that the natural sciences are more subjective than the exact sciences, and that the latter, in turn, are more objective than the former, since the production of knowledge, in any area, is the result of an analysis based on categories of understanding. Therefore, the principle of objectivity has a relationship with qualified intersubjectivity (BACHELARD, 1977).

Based on this understanding, there is a distinction between Defense epistemic Community (set of people - political scientists, jurists, military, etc.- focused on the study of science), and Defense Community (people - scientists, intellectuals, politicians, etc.- interested in Defense matters) (DA ROCHA, 2015).

The Brazilian Association of Defense Studies (ABED) refers to the Defense Epistemic Community, being a space that promotes and fosters the main scientific debates on the subject. That is, a forum in which interested parties study themes related to Defense from different epistemic points of view. In other words, the object of study is Defense, being permeated by various epistemic areas of knowledge (HAAS, 1992).

That said, science is envisioned as linked to the epistemic community, whose members are recognized by the scientific community, which is not without its political elements - especially with regard to scholarship policies, research funding, the criteria that determine who is able to publish on Defense Studies (HAAS, 1992).

Therefore, it can be stated that science is a political activity, which reveals the wishes of those interested in postulating a specific epistemic area of Defense. However, for this to be possible, it is necessary to have a team of scientists responsible for listing the political criteria that will ratify a particular area of knowledge as science (BACHELARD, 1977).

4 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Defense Studies comprises a relevant field of studies for the Brazilian society, reason why its importance for the academic community cannot be denied, especially in Brazilian soil. The emergence of ABED was a very important milestone for the development of a broad spectrum of the subject under examination within the national society. Thus, the debates on its forms of investigation, methodological



and epistemological approaches have been increasing day by day, as a reflection of the academic efforts to weave Defense Studies as a scientific area.

In view of this, this work aimed to investigate, even if in brief summary, the Brazilian efforts regarding the perspective of scientifiability of Defense Studies as an area of scientific knowledge, from the efforts employed in the legislative field, as well as the epistemological construction of Defense Studies itself. In short, it can be stated that Defense Studies requires dialogue with society, since the participation of various actors in society is important, which is why the Ministry of Defense, since its inception, has sought to ensure the participation of civilian specialists in the subject of Defense, as well as their interlocution with military experts in the field.

In effect, the Federal Constitution of 1988 promotes an environment conducive to dialogue on the areas that are of interest to the state, including Defense Studies. In this sense, one can observe the legislative effort to establish a legal framework that unravels the Defense Policy, in order to guide the steps to be taken in the execution of Brazil's Defense, as well as the studies that are legitimate to be produced on this subject. Therefore, the government's incentive is fundamental to educational institutions, which generates the joint scientific progress of civilians and military in benefit of Defense Studies and the expansion of the national research agenda concerning the subject.

Furthermore, the National Defense Strategy document, as well as the actions of the Ministry of Defense, gradually contributes to the construction of Defense Studies as a scientific area. However, the CNPQ has not conducted a revision of the scientific areas recognized in Brazil, which is why several new areas have not been included, among which Defense Studies can be mentioned.

Finally, it remains to be mentioned that it is possible to approach a scientific discussion on matters concerning Defense. However, to speak of a Defense Science is something that requires from academics a deeper debate on Defense Studies, allowing for the exchange of knowledge between academia and military institutions, especially through Pro-Defense, which will consolidate an increasingly qualified space for dialogue for the Brazilian State.



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