

In 2008, the ambassadors Jerônimo Moscardo, president of Fundação Alexandre de Gusmão, and Carlos Henrique Cardim, director of the Instituto de Pesquisa de Relações Internacionais (IPRI), invited me to write an essay on the geopolitics and the strategic dimension of the United States and to present it at the Third National Conference on Foreign Policy and International Politics, held in Rio de Janeiro on September 29, 2008. The essay was subsequently published by the Fundação Alexandre de Gusmão in 2009, along with other works written by me addressing the geopolitics and strategic dimension of the United States, Brazil, and South America.

The uprisings that occurred in North Africa and the Middle East after 2010, however, made me realize it would be necessary to expand and update the study. I took it upon myself to do this between March and November 2012, when the events were unfolding, i.e., when history was still flowing, always renewing, progressing, as the waters of a river. But as Antonio Gramsci taught us, “*se scrivere storia significa fare storia del presente, è grande libro di storia quello che nel presente aiuta le forze in isviluppo a divenire più consapevoli di se stesse e quindi più concretamente attive e fattive.*”<sup>1</sup> This is what I tried to do as Political Scientist.

This work—*The Second Cold War—The Geopolitics and Strategic Dimension of the United States (From the Rebellions in Eurasia to North Africa and the Middle East)*—fleshes out various aspects and builds upon and updates another work of mine—*Formation of the American Empire (From the War against Spain to the War in Iraq)*—published in 2005 by the publisher Civilização Brasileira, which has already been translated and published in Argentina, Cuba, and the People’s Republic of China.

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<sup>1</sup>“If writing history means making history of the present, a great book of history is one which in the present moment helps emerging forces to become more aware of themselves and hence more concretely active and energetic.” Gramsci (2010, p. 48).

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