

INTERNATIONAL CITY'S NETWORKS AND DIPLOMACY

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The internationalization of cities and the constitution of a new international space of power involves a much more expressive number of cities than only the usual global cities or megacities. Today, regional capitals, medium and even small cities comprise dozens of international organizations with diverse agendas and their own strategies of action, seeking to interfere in global processes, negotiating with large corporations, multilateral organizations and nation states.

The understanding of the role of the city in the present system of power no longer comes exclusively from the protagonism of this or that city or from the hierarchical complementary functions of cities. It is about the emergence of a new international law subject, the city as a category (geographical connections), the cities as spaces of globalization and also the emergence of cities' networks as a new power organization.

This paper aims to present the current cities' internationalization process beyond the disciplinary field of International Relations (IRs), contributing to the understanding of city diplomacy and the constitution of a new world order.

Historically, the internationalization of cities carries strategic values such as peace, culture and sustainability, among others discussed in this paper. More recently, this process is linked to the idea of the city as merchandise – urban requalification and urban space commoditization – treated here under the conception of “rugosities”, local and global rationality and “creative destruction”.

By hypothesis, it is affirmed that the internationalization of a city is directly related to the democratic environment and to the degree of social participation and autonomy of the local government; as well as resulting from the local intention and capacity to generate and implement strategies to do so.

The cities' networks are presented based on data from secondary sources and from an original database research. Additionally, a theoretical discussion proposes

an innovative classification of those networks, according to their constitution, composition, agendas and spatialization. The classification is composed of four different types of networks (city, business, project, and global) and is essential for geopolitical analysis through the cartography of this new space of power. The characteristics, agents and means of this diplomacy are discussed, as well as the adequacy of the terms paradiplomacy, city diplomacy, federative diplomacy and metrodiplomacy.

The specific case of Brazilian cities internationalization is presented on the basis of empirical data and from a critical analysis of the efforts made by federated entities in the last 20 years.

In conclusion notes and indications of further research are summarized aiming to deepen the knowledge about this new and important agent of the world order, the city network.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY