In the post-Cold War international system regional hegemons have attained significant power and decisively influence the stability and security of neighboring states. This talk focuses on the behavior of regional powers with regards to their involvement in United Nations Peace Operations. Special focus is given to Brazil, which I compare to traditional regional powers of South Africa and India. The literature argues that peace operations are an integral component of defense policy for regional powers. Regional powers seek to elevate their international status, attain regional stability and satisfy military interests. I argue that Brazil’s participation in peacekeeping efforts is motivated not by external security concerns, but rather can be explained by the involvement of the Brazilian military in internal security operations. This exploratory research uses data on United Nations peacekeeping operations and countries’ declaratory defense policies.

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