



Anglo-Brazilian Naval Relations, 1922-1977

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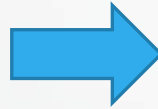
Objective:

Understand the Anglo-Brazilian Naval Relations under the context of the foreign policy of both countries during the period of US hegemony over naval matters in Brazilian Navy


Two different patterns of relationship:

- 1) 1922-1942 – US and Great Britain contest for influence over Brazilian Navy
- 2) 1942-1977 – US dominance and Britain takes a more commercial approach

- Question of dependence: revolutionary changes in shipbuilding and naval technology in the 19th century

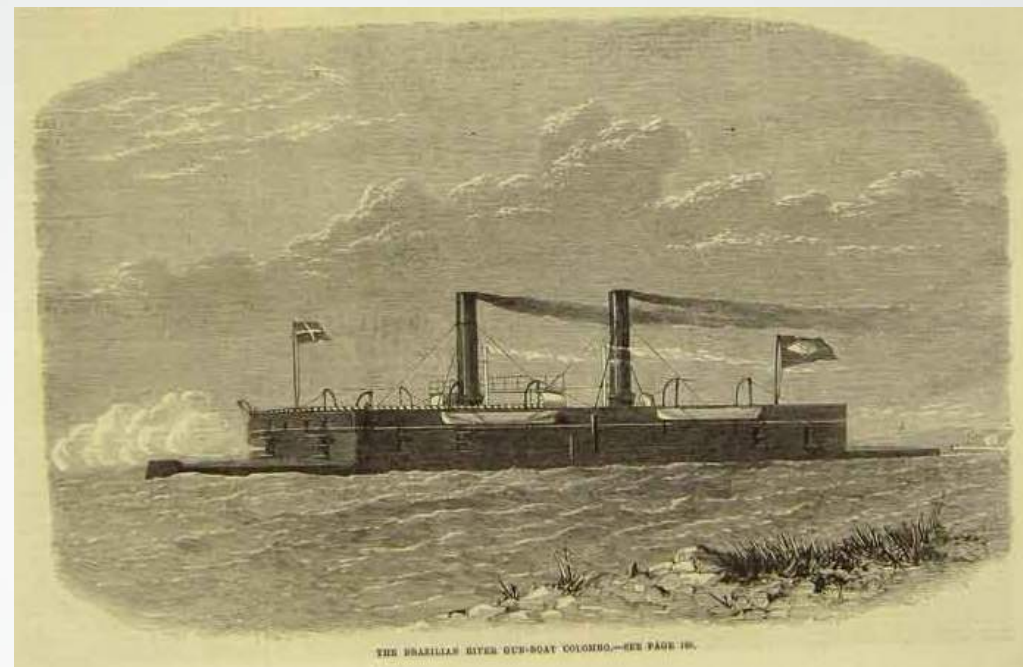
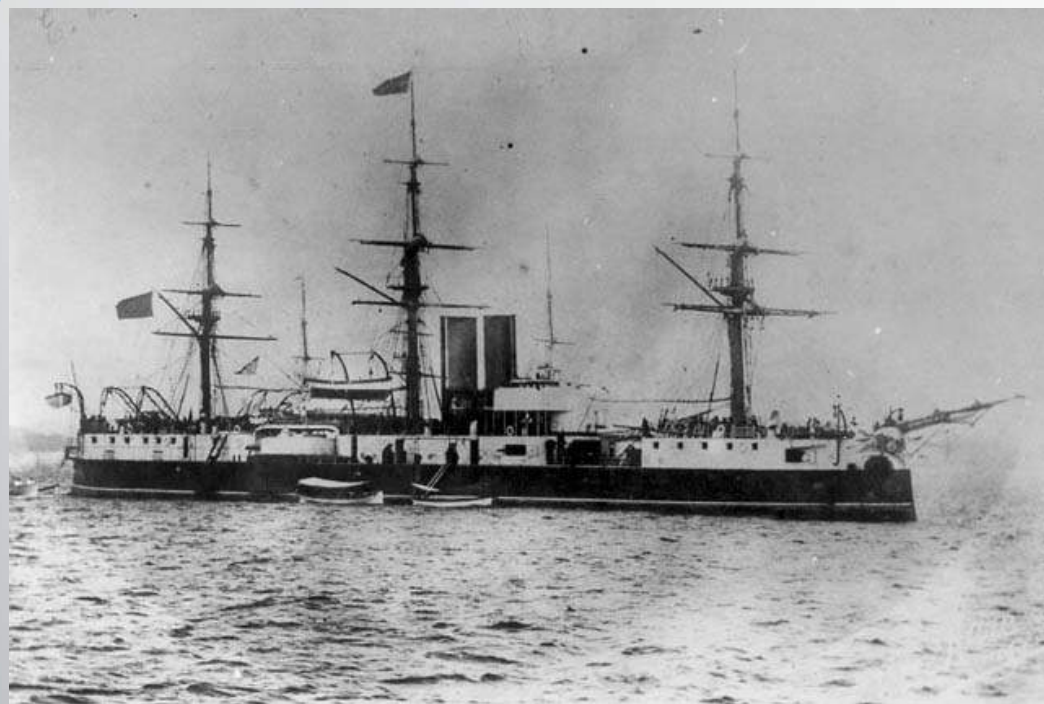


- Brazil was deeply affected by those changes: dependence on foreign imports for modern warships

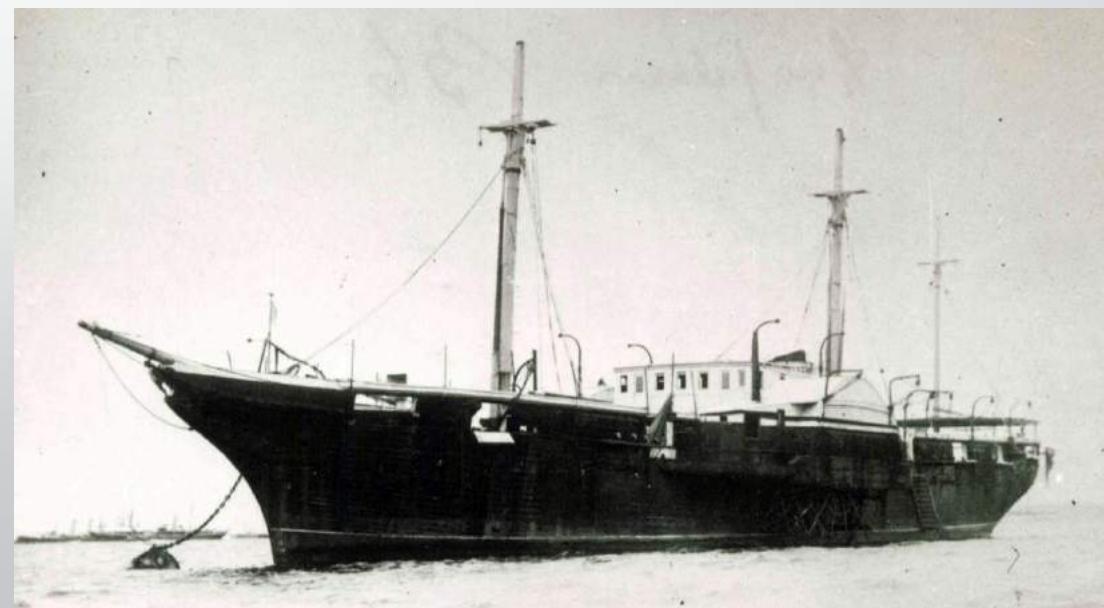
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- Arms transfers and sales as a tool of foreign policy
 - Naval Diplomacy – naval aid

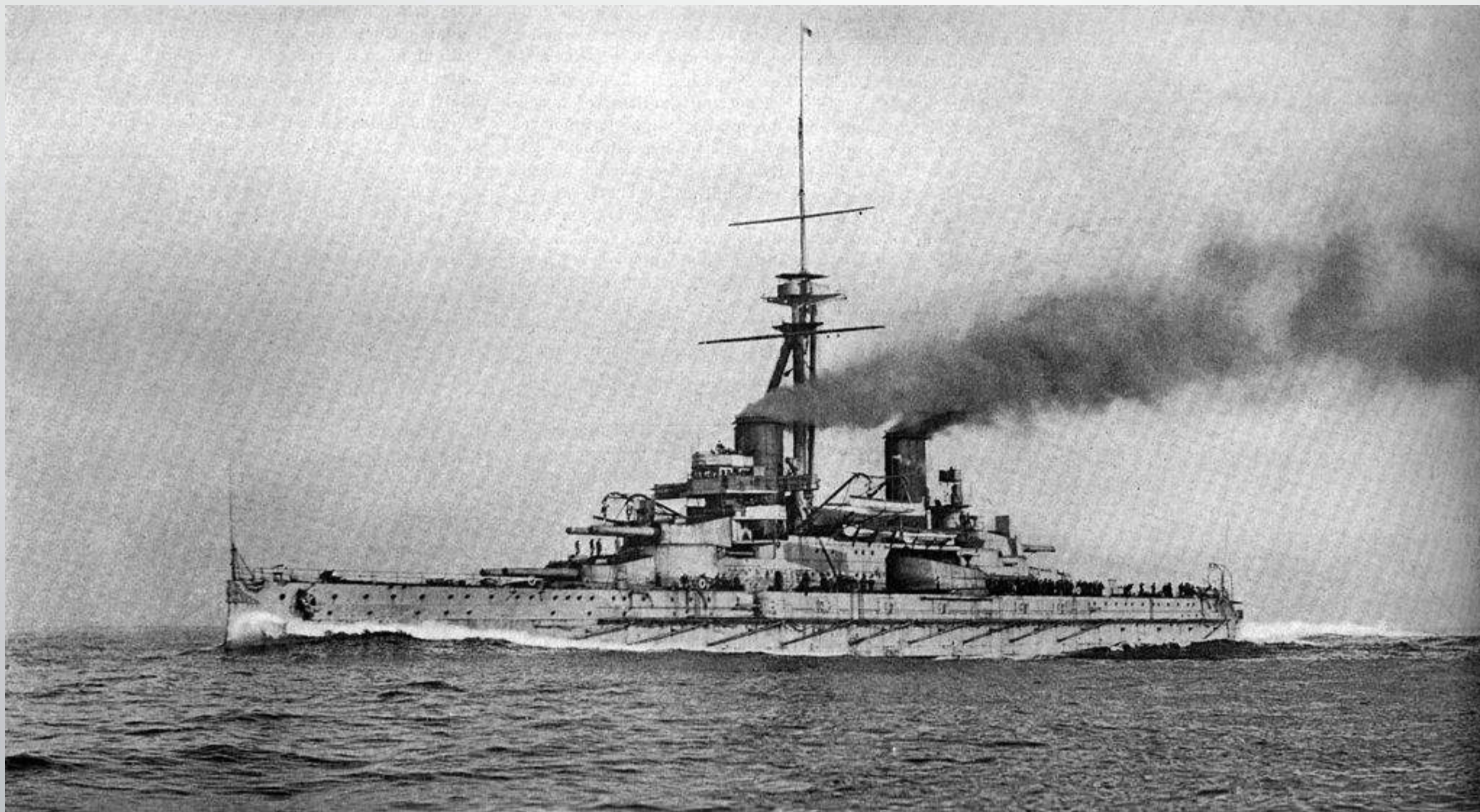
Anglo-Brazilian Naval Relations in historical perspective

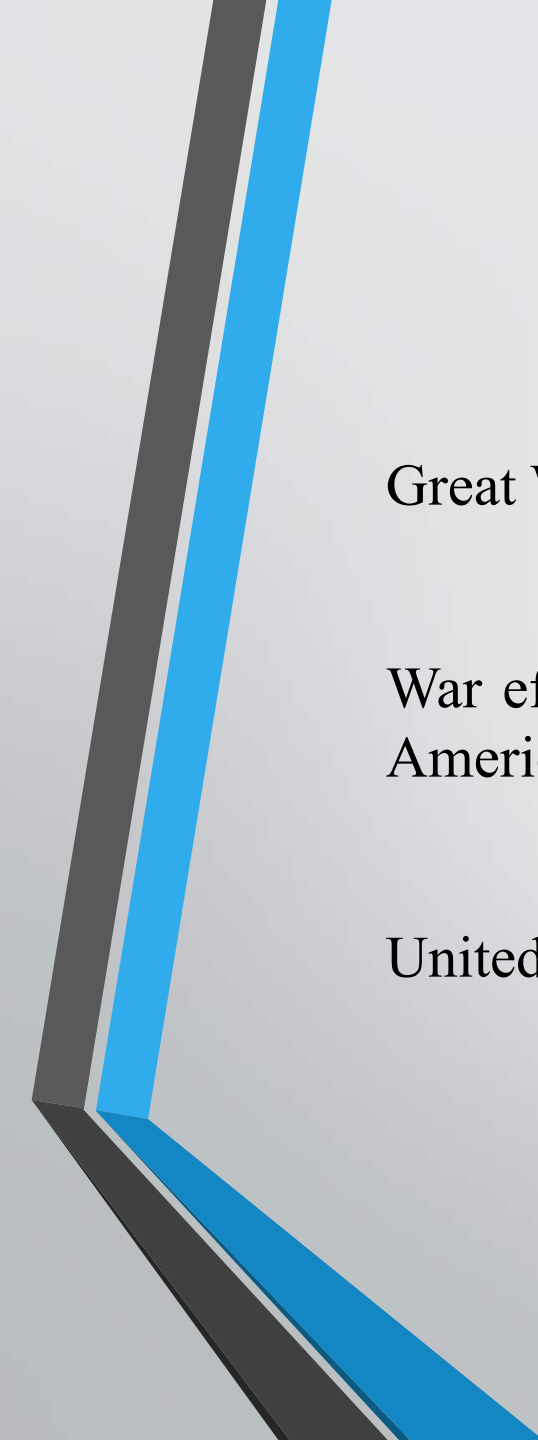




THE BRAZILIAN RIVER STEAMSHIP COLOMBO.—SEE PAGE 10.





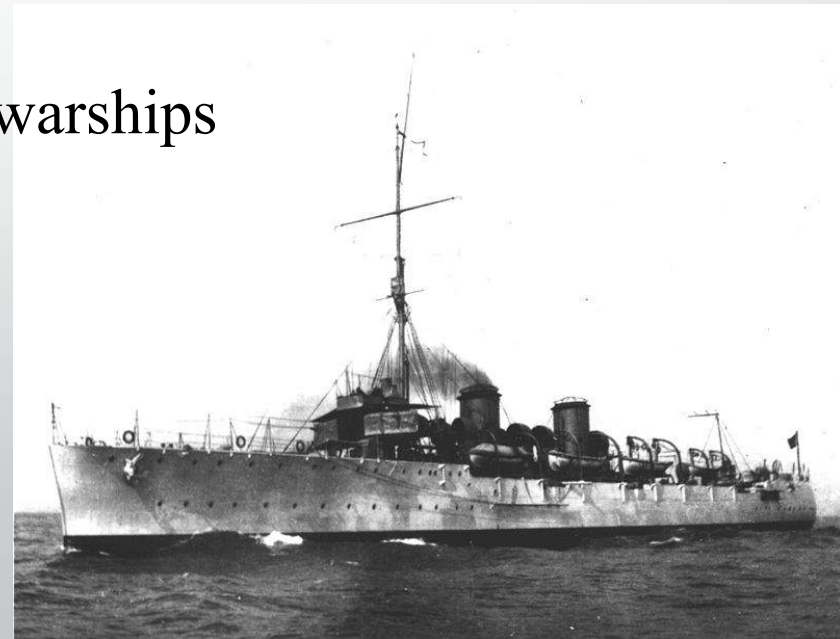


Great War (1914-1918)

War effort requires all the Great Britain resources in order to defeat Germany - Latin America loses importance to British government

United States emerge as a major political and economic influence over South America

- 1914 – United States sends a naval officer to Escola Naval de Guerra
- 1917 – Brazil enters in World War One:
- Brazilian Navy was in a poor state
- British and US naval officers came to aid – organization of a Naval Force to be sent to European Waters
- Brazilian naval officers embark in US warships



Postwar

- Brazilian Navy needs to be modernized
- Battleships are refitted in US 1918-1920
- 1922 – American Naval Mission comes to Brazil



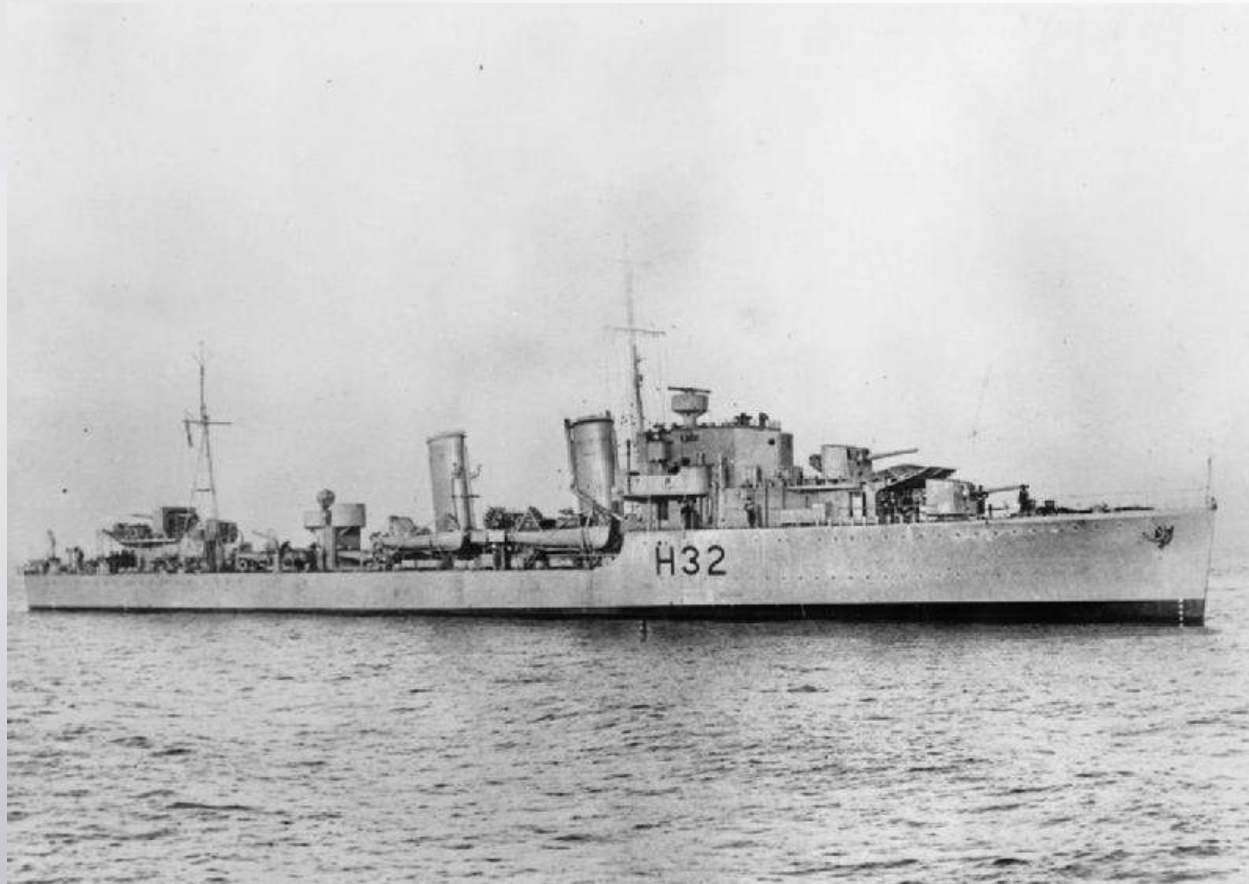
1922-1930 – difficulties in modernizing the fleet: refit of cruisers and incorporation of one destroyer and one submarine



- 1930 – Vargas presidency – modernize Brazilian Navy
- 1931-1933 – brief withdrawal of American Naval Mission
- Brazil wants cruisers, destroyers, submarines and minesweepers
- Great Britain, United States, Italy and Germany interest
- Importance of international context – Allies x Axis
- Washington (1922) and London (1931, 1936) Naval Treaties forbides sales of major warships
- US faces Legislative barriers to sell warships to Brazil – supports shipbuilding efforts in Rio de Janeiro



Relative success of Great Britain: sale of six destroyers (*Javary* class) in late 1930s



World War Two (1939-1945)

- Latin America loses importance to Britain at same time that becomes more important to the United States – hemispheric defense
- Britain does not deliver Brazilian destroyers
- US became the only country capable to support Brazilian naval project
- 1939-1942 – Brazil-US negotiations - importance of weapons supply

- 1942-1945 – Brazilian participation in the war operations
- Brazilian Navy is completely modernized - anti-submarine warfare (ASW)
- Major impact on organization, strategic thinking, tactics and naval means – American hegemony over naval matters
- 24 American warships transferred – destroyers and submarine chasers




- 1945-1951 – changing conditions in US-Brazilian relations – Brazil will not receive the warships that she wants
- However, relations remain very close – Cold War scenario and focus on ASW
- Military Aid Program (MAP) – second-hand warships
- Britain need financial resources to recover its economy – traditional arms market in Latin America
- Fierce opposition of United States, engaged on a standardization of Latin American armed forces under US hegemony
- British position – regain their share in the Latin American weapons market without creating conflict with United States


- 1951-1964 – Brazilian foreign policy slowly becomes more independent, aiming for resources for national development and political leadership of Latin America
- United States refuse to transfer modern and prestigious warships
- Cruisers to Argentina, Brasil and Chile
- Some Brazilian military dissatisfaction with Americans – they wanted to have preferential treatment over Latin America

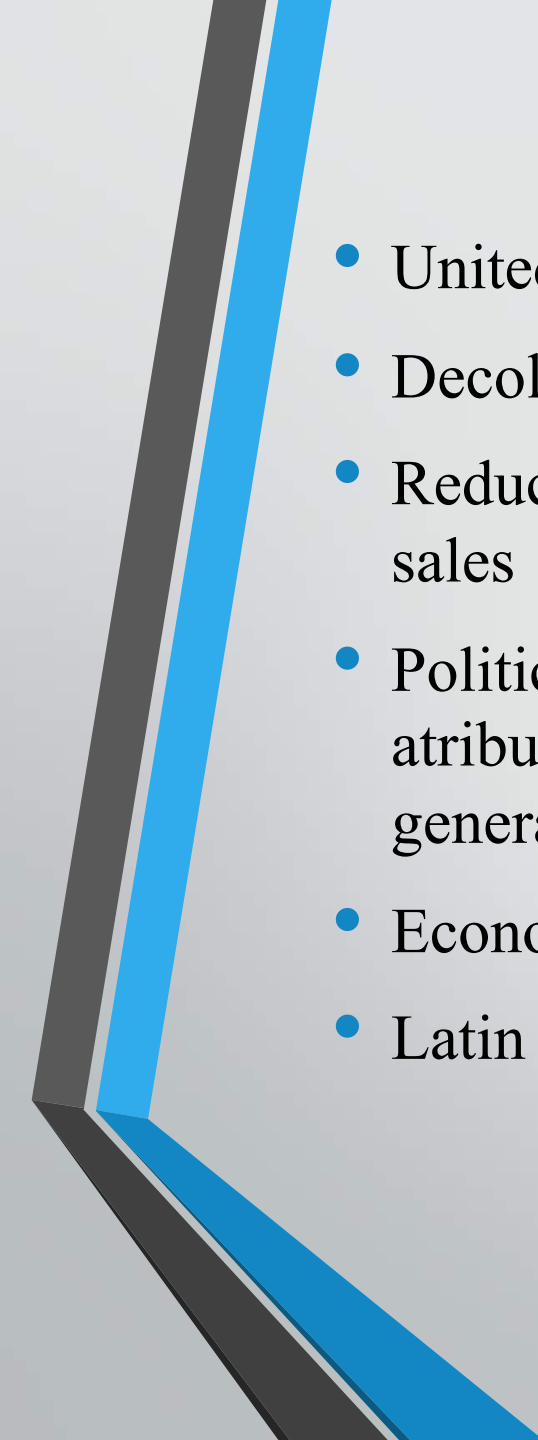


- Brazilian Navy searches for “new” warships suppliers – United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan and France
- Interest in modern destroyers and an aircraft carrier
- 1956 – Britain sells the Vengeance (Minas Gerais) to Brazil



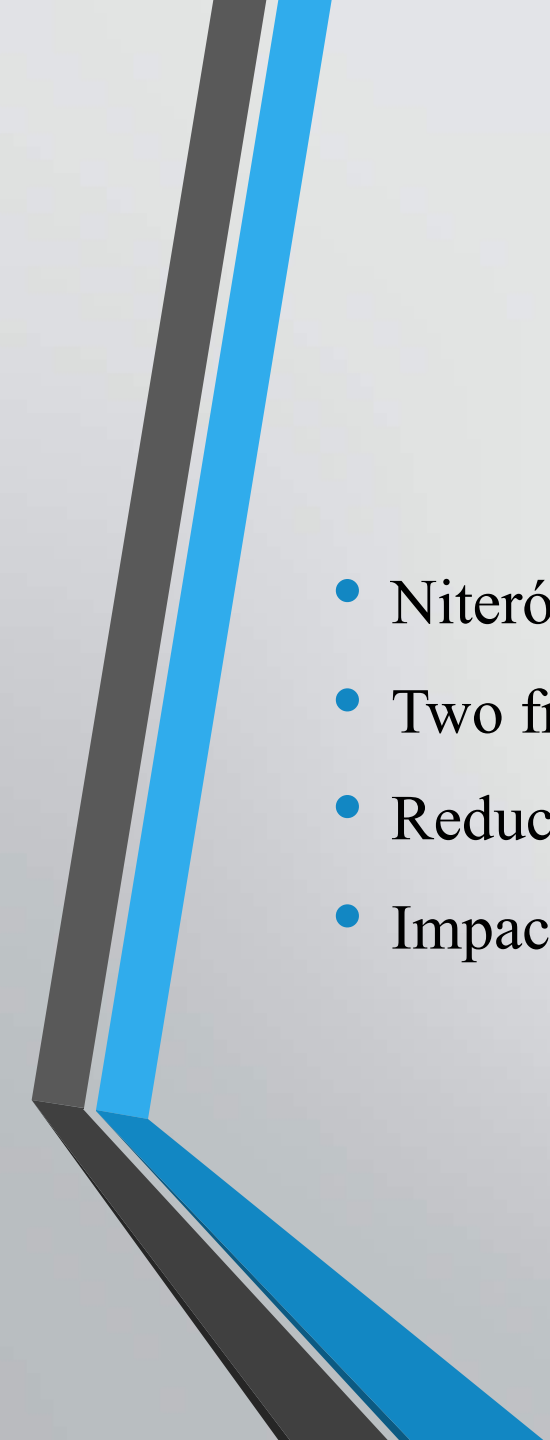
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- Brazilian carrier was refitted in Dutch yards and received American airplanes
 - Impact on Brazilian strategy?
 - More expressive warships transfers from United States to Brazil: second-hand destroyers, submarines and minesweepers under MAP

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- 1964 – establishment of a military dictatorship in Brazil – the impacts on relations with United States?
 - US reduce arms transfers: focus on anti-insurgency equipment
 - 1967 – Programa Decenal de Renovação dos Meios Flutuantes
 - US does not want to transfer advanced and prestigious weaponry to South American countries – return to European market

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- United Kingdom – changing conditions
 - Decolonization process – reduction of Royal Navy
 - Reduced domestic naval arms demand increases the importance of foreign sales
 - Political interest in maintaining developed and advanced arms industry: attribute of power, decreases dependence of United States support and generates jobs
 - Economic difficulties on shipbuilding industries
 - Latin American interest in new weapons – new opportunities

- United Kingdom and West Germany competition to supply warships to Brazil
- Royal Navy visits ports in Brazil
- Historical relations – Royal Navy was a model to Brazilian Navy
- Successful sales: six frigates (Niterói class) and three submarines (Humaitá-class in Brazil, Oberon class in UK)



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- Niterói class frigates were a technological leap for Brazilian Navy
 - Two frigates were built in Brazil – increased national shipbuilding capabilities
 - Reduced dependence on United States
 - Impacts on naval strategy?

- However, the renewed strong British influence in Brazilian Navy did not last long
- United States cancel some restrictions in arms transfers – recover their market share – supply of cheap second-hand destroyers and submarines
- West Germany – new partnerships involving the transference of advanced naval technology



Final Remarks

Naval sales and its relationship with foreign relations

2 distincts periods: 1922-1942 – naval contest with US; 1942-1977 – a more commercial approach