

# **Política Internacional e Geopolítica**

## **a crise do mundo globalizado**

**INSTITUTO CULTURAL  
D. ANTÓNIO FERREIRA GOMES  
José Pedro Teixeira Fernandes**

**2020-2021  
SESSÃO Nº 6**



# PARTE I – TEMA PRINCIPAL

# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (1) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]



**FORM OF GOVERNMENT**  
federal republic with two legislative houses (House of the Federation [153]; House of Peoples' Representatives [547])

**HEAD OF STATE**  
President: Sahle-Work Zewde

**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT**  
Prime Minister: [Abiy Ahmed](#)

**CAPITAL**  
[Addis Ababa](#)

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**  
none<sup>1</sup>

**OFFICIAL RELIGION**  
none

**MONETARY UNIT**  
birr (Br)

**POPULATION**  
(2019 est.) 99,108,000



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (2) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica / Lago Tana na Etiópia]





# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (3) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

## Tigray

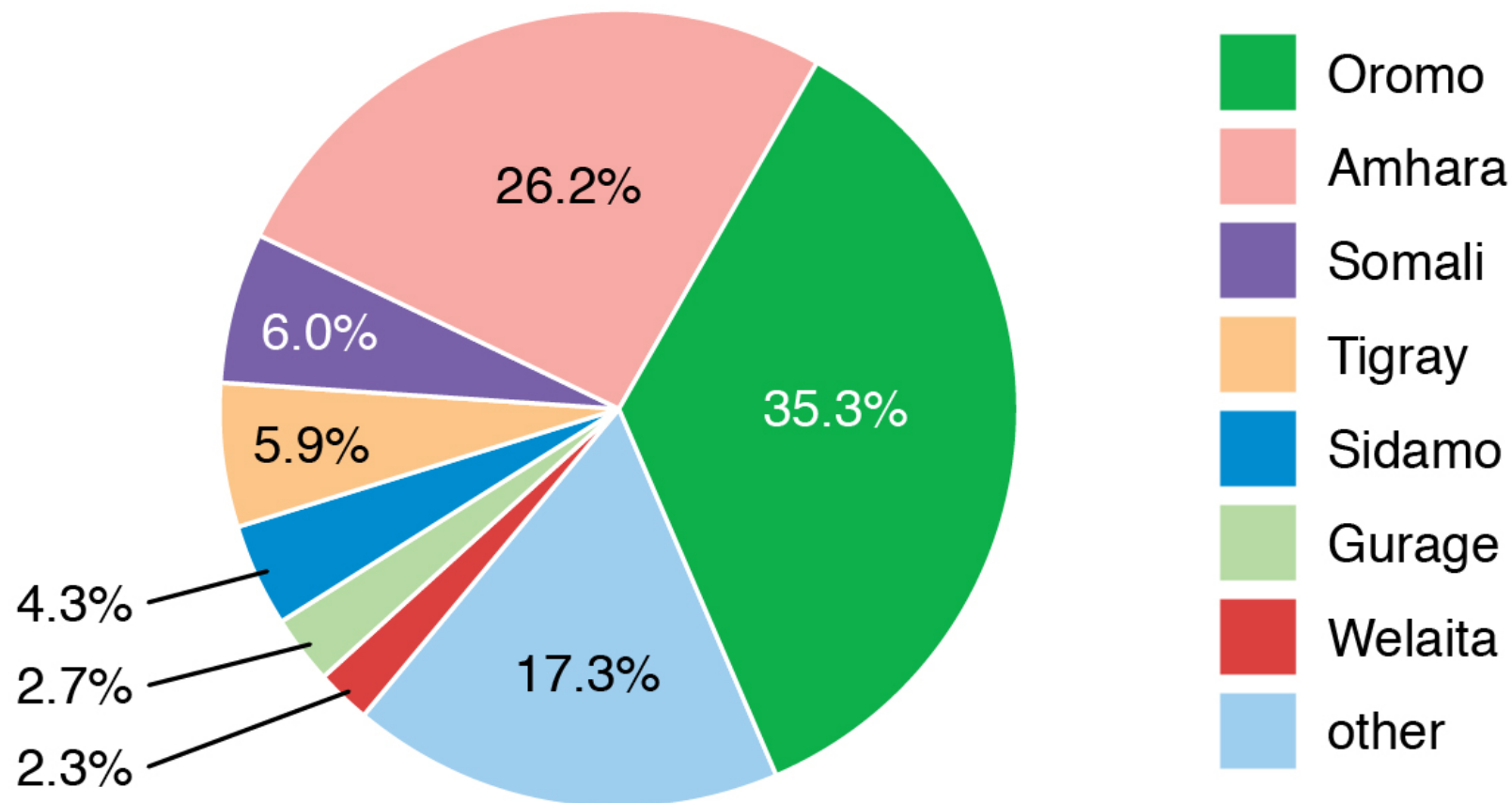
**Tigray**, also spelled **Tigrai** or **Tegray**, also called (in Eritrea) **Tigrinya**, people of central Eritrea and of the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. The Tigray speak Tigrinya, a Semitic language related to Ge'ez and to Tigré, the language of a separate people (the Tigre) inhabiting northwestern Eritrea. In Eritrea the Tigray are also sometimes called Tigrinya, although linguists who work in Semitic languages note that *-nya* is an Amharic suffix meaning “language of.” In any event, the political climate in Eritrea and Ethiopia makes agreement on nomenclature difficult at best.

The Tigray are descendants of a Semitic people who intermixed with the Cushitic inhabitants of the region and founded the Christian kingdom of Aksum, which had its capital in the historic region of Tigray. The Tigray are a sedentary agricultural people. Most, along with the neighbouring Amhara people, are adherents of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo (Coptic) Church or the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church. Despite the religious and cultural similarities between the Tigray and the Amhara, linguistic differences and political rivalry—often erupting into warfare—have separated the two groups.

In the early 21st century the Tigray accounted for about half of the population of Eritrea and less than one-tenth of the population of Ethiopia.

# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (4) [FONTE: Encyclopaedia Britannica]

## Ethnic composition (2012)



© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (5) [FONTE: DW, 13/11/2020]



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (6) [FONTE: DW, 13/11/2020]

## Ethiopia forces key personnel changes over Tigray conflict

Ethiopia has installed a new head of Tigray after accusing the troubled region's leaders of treason. It also urged the African Union to sack its security chief, an Ethiopian from Tigray, saying he was disloyal.



Ethiopia's Parliament has appointed Mulu Nega as the new chief executive of conflict-hit Tigray, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Friday.

The announcement came as government troops pressed on with a military offensive against local forces in the northern region, where [fighting over the past week](#) has killed hundreds of people and forced thousands to flee their homes.



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (7) [FONTE: The Nobel Prize, 2019]

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The Nobel Peace Prize 2019

Abiy Ahmed Ali - Facts



The Nobel Peace Prize 2019

Abiy Ahmed Ali

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## Abiy Ahmed Ali Facts



© Nobel Media. Photo: A. Mahmoud

Abiy Ahmed Ali  
The Nobel Peace Prize 2019

Born: 15 August 1976, Beshasha, Ethiopia

Role: Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Prize motivation: "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea."

Prize share: 1/1

# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (8) [FONTE: “Sudan Will Decide the Outcome of the Ethiopian Civil War” in FP, 14/11/2020]

**A**DDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—While the world girded for the U.S. election in early November, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched a war against the northern region of Tigray. The region is home to the Tigray People’s Liberation Front—the party that dominated Ethiopian politics for decades and has since been displaced and sidelined as Abiy has sought to consolidate power and made peace with the TPLF’s archenemy, Eritrea.

But the TPLF has not gone quietly; in September, the regional government it leads held local elections that the central government refused to recognize in October. Then, on Nov. 3, following provocations by Abiy, it took control of personnel, military hardware, and equipment from the federal army’s Northern Command, prompting Addis Ababa to declare war against a region that remains home to a sizable portion of the Ethiopian federal army’s arsenal and forces, given its position along the long-contested and still undemarcated border with Eritrea.

Abiy has long accused the TPLF old guard of seeking to sabotage his government and his purported reforms. But now, facing all-out war against a formidable foe, the outcome will turn on the choices of Ethiopia’s neighbors—Sudan and Eritrea.



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (9) [FONTE: “Sudan Will Decide the Outcome of the Ethiopian Civil War” in FP, 14/11/2020]



Members of the Tigray region special police force parade during celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the launching of the “Armed Struggle of the Peoples of Tigray” in Mekelle, Ethiopia, on Feb. 19. MICHAEL TEWELDE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (10) [FONTE: “Sudan Will Decide the Outcome of the Ethiopian Civil War” in FP, 14/11/2020]

**Although Tigray is small, it is well armed, and its forces are battle-hardened.** Tigray’s regional special forces, which a senior Ethiopian diplomat estimates have grown to at least 20,000 commandos—led by senior Tigrayan officers forced into retirement by Abiy, plus a standing body of reserve special forces made up of military-trained militia and armed farmers—together have an estimated total of up to 250,000 armed fighters. Until recently, however, it lacked the heavy weaponry required to directly confront a fully-equipped division.

Since last week, the TPLF has taken control of half the soldiers from the five divisions of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) Northern Command that remain in Tigray—meaning it has gained 15,000 soldiers, according to three sources: a senior Ethiopian diplomat briefed on the latest developments, a senior retired intelligence officer in Tigray who continues to work for the TPLF, and a source in Tigray monitoring the situation. But the seizure of Ethiopian military hardware and equipment has heightened the importance of logistical supplies for the TPLF, which will inevitably depend on Sudan’s stance.

Sudan has a number of strategic reasons to back—or at least to be perceived as supporting—the TPLF in the civil war against Ethiopia’s government.



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (11) [FONTE: “Sudan Will Decide the Outcome of the Ethiopian Civil War” in FP, 14/11/2020]

## Will Ethiopia's Civil War Engulf Sudan and Eritrea?



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (12) [FONTE: “Sudan Will Decide the Outcome of the Ethiopian Civil War” in FP, 14/11/2020]

While Sudan has officially closed the borders between Tigray and Sudan’s frontier states of Kassala and Gadaref—which are landlocked Tigray’s only logistical links to the outside world in terms of fuel, ammunition, and food—it could use the threat of support to the TPLF to extract concessions from Addis Ababa on the contested Fashqa triangle.

Fashqa is an approximately 100-square-mile territory of prime agricultural land along its border with Ethiopia’s Amhara state, which Sudan claims by virtue of an agreement signed in 1902 between the United Kingdom and Ethiopia under Emperor Menelik II and subsequently reinforced by various Ethiopian leaders, including the TPLF.

The dispute over Fashqa remains a major grievance for Ethiopia’s ethnic Amhara farmers near the border, who seek to till the land, and is an obstacle in negotiations over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Like Egypt, Sudan has rejected Ethiopia’s proposal for guidelines that would enshrine Ethiopia’s future ability to manage annual flow of the Blue Nile on a discretionary basis and Khartoum is already using the issue as leverage to pressure Abiy on Fashqa, where Ethiopia and Sudan continue to maintain a military presence.

But if Sudan supports Tigray, which also borders Eritrea, the civil war will certainly become a protracted affair, and the strategic fallout in Khartoum’s relations with Addis Ababa and Asmara could be too high. Indeed, the region could quickly revert to the state of proxy conflict that preceded the rise of Abiy and the collapse of former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir’s regime—or precipitate a wider regional conflagration.



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (13) [FONTE: Reuters, 17/11/2020]

## **Factbox: Which countries have stakes in Ethiopia's war?**

FILE PHOTO: A volunteer holds an Ethiopian flag during a blood donation ceremony for the injured members of Ethiopia's National Defense Forces (ENDF) fighting against Tigray's special forces on the border between Amhara and Tigray, at the stadium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia November 12, 2020. REUTERS/Tiksa Negeri

(Reuters) - Ethiopian troops are battling rebellious forces from the country's northern Tigray region. Fallout from the conflict in Africa's second most-populous nation is already spilling over into Ethiopia's neighbours, threatening to further destabilise a fragile region.

ERITREA - Three missiles fired by Tigrayan forces slammed into the Eritrean capital Asmara this weekend. Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 but the two nations went back to war over a border dispute in 1998-2000, when the Tigrayan ethnic group dominated Ethiopian politics.

Tigrayan ascendancy ended when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took power in 2018. Last year, he won the Nobel peace prize for signing a peace deal with Eritrea. Abiy's rapprochement with Eritrea angered the Tigrayan leadership and came as several high-ranking Tigrayan former officials were put on trial for abuses and corruption.

SUDAN - Since fighting began in Tigray, at least 25,000 refugees have poured across the border into cash-strapped Sudan, where a joint civilian-military government is struggling to cement fragile peace deals with a plethora of armed groups. The sliver of territory next to Sudan is Tigray's only border not controlled by Ethiopian or Eritrean forces.

# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (14) [FONTE: The Atlantic Council, 9/02/2016]



# O conflito do Tigré na Etiópia (15) [FONTE: Reuters, 17/11/2020]

Sudan has a long-running border quarrel with Ethiopia - both sides claim the fertile Fashqa triangle - but the bigger dispute between the two nations centres on Ethiopia's giant Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which will dam the waters of the Blue Nile. Both Egypt and Sudan are concerned the \$4 billion dam might threaten their water supplies.

EGYPT - Egypt and Sudan are holding joint war exercises this week, scheduled long before the Tigrayan conflict broke out but intended as a joint show of force amid the unresolved dispute over Ethiopia's dam on the Nile.

Egypt, which is Africa's third-most populous nation, relies on the Nile for more than 90% of its fresh water supplies and wants a legally binding treaty on how Ethiopia can use the Blue Nile's waters.

SOMALIA - Ethiopian troops are in Somalia both as part of an African Union peacekeeping force and as bilateral forces. Somalia, ravaged by civil war since 1991, is battling al-Qaeda linked Islamist militant group al Shabaab, which has also carried out attacks in Ethiopia. Ethiopia shares a long and porous border with Somalia and has a large ethnically Somali population.

DJIBOUTI - Tiny Djibouti punches well above its weight in the region because it hosts both U.S. and Chinese military bases and because its port is Ethiopia's only access to the sea. Djibouti, which borders Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, has issued a statement calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and the opening of humanitarian corridors.



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (1) [FONTE: Radio Free Europe 10/11/2020]



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (2) [FONTE: Alexandeer Gabuev / BBC 12/11/2020]

## How Turkey and Russia have gained from conflict

For Turkey, the war in Karabakh was a showcase for Ankara's growing role in the strategically important South Caucasus.

The victorious Azerbaijani military was supplied, trained, and supported by the Turkish army. Some reports suggest that Turkish officers played a key part in guiding drone attacks which played a decisive role in this conflict, although that has been denied by Ankara.



EPA/AZERBAIJAN DEFENCE MINISTRY HANDOUT

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev (right) described the peace deal as a "capitulation" by Armenia



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (3) [FONTE: Alexandeer Gabuev / BBC 12/11/2020]

## How Russia benefits from peace deal

When the Azeri military had taken Shusha (Shushi in Armenian), the second-largest city in Karabakh, Russian diplomatic efforts intensified. Using a mixture of diplomacy and pressure, Moscow secured a peace deal that turns a conflict in which there were no good options for the Kremlin into a situation that helped to boost Russia's leverage.

The deal has prevented the conclusive defeat of Nagorno-Karabakh and the likely expulsion of its Armenian inhabitants.

Russia is sending about 2,000 peacekeepers to protect the remaining Armenian population, separate the two adversaries, and patrol a corridor that will connect Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh: something the Kremlin has wanted since 1994, but couldn't obtain at the negotiating table before this war.

Moscow has also managed to sideline Ankara.



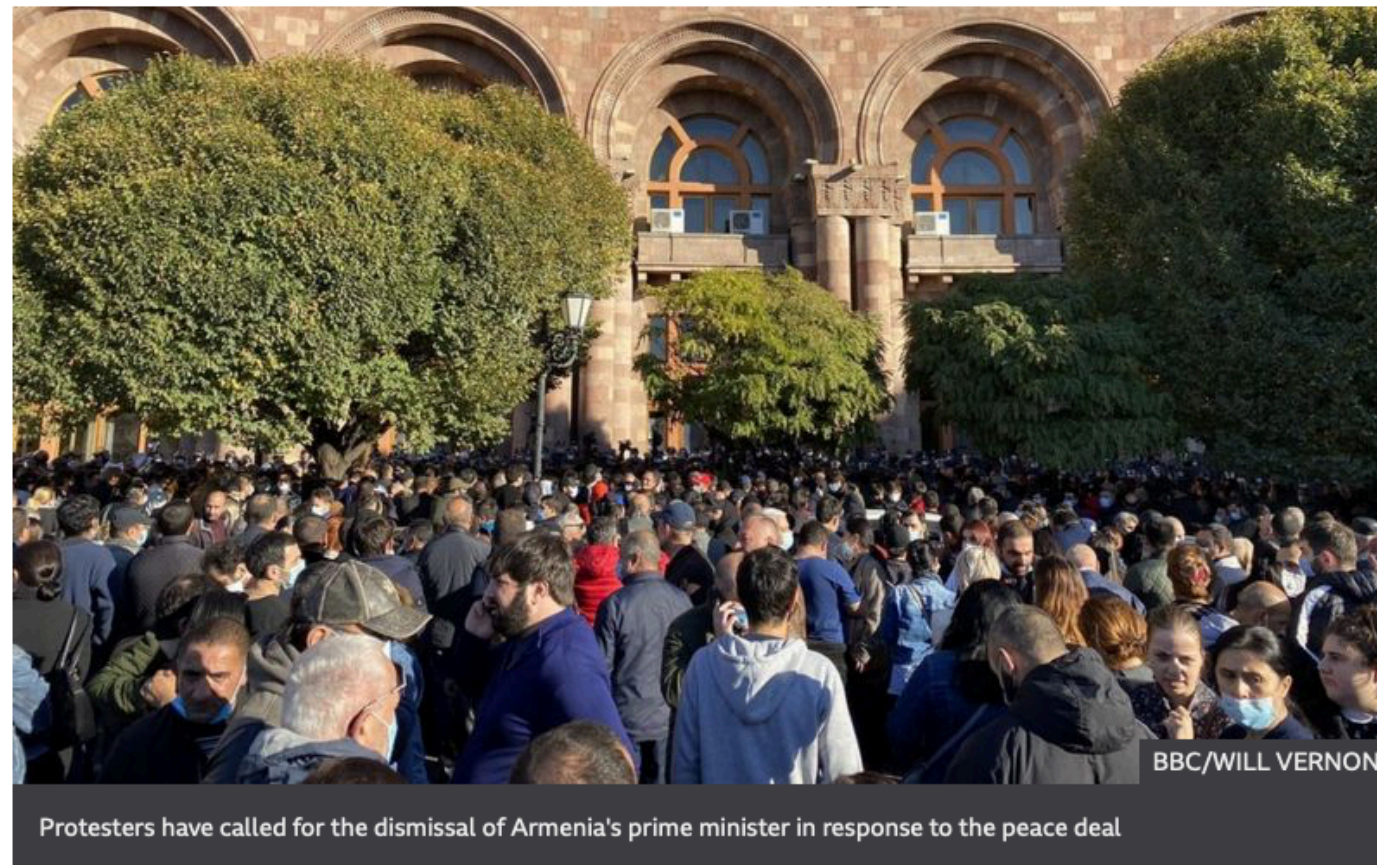


# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (4) [FONTE: Alexandeer Gabuev / BBC 12/11/2020]

## Why Russia has not had complete success

Moscow's diplomatic victory comes at a price. The war has shown the growth of Turkish influence in the Caucasus, and Moscow no longer looks like the only major power in the region.

But the region had been opening up over the three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and no-one in Moscow believed Russia could dominate the region indefinitely.



Then there is the anger and sense of betrayal felt by Armenian society.

But Moscow believes Yerevan has no realistic options other than continuing to rely on Russia to guarantee its security. A likely by-product of the Armenian defeat might be the fall of Nikol Pashinyan's government, but he won't be missed by the Kremlin.

# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (5) [FONTE: Nicu Popescu / Politico 11/11/2020]

## Russia's win in Nagorno-Karabakh is EU's loss

The EU risks becoming irrelevant in conflicts in its wider neighborhood.



Artillery is fired on the front lines of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh in October | Aris Messinis/AFP via Getty Images

*Nicu Popescu is director of the Wider Europe program at the European Council of Foreign Relations.*

After six weeks of fighting over [the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh](#) — and several failed cease-fires — [Russia has mediated a deal](#) between Armenia and Azerbaijan that appears likely to hold.



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (6) [FONTE: Nicu Popescu / Politico 11/11/2020]

Unless the EU rethinks its strategy in the region, it seems relegated to observing as others take charge.

The Russia-brokered deal bears striking resemblance to what Armenia, Azerbaijan and the international community agreed would be a reasonable compromise, under the so-called Madrid Principles a decade ago.

The main difference is that it is being implemented by military force, not diplomats or politicians.

As part of the deal, Russia will deploy some 2,000 peacekeepers, ensuring that Nagorno-Karabakh will have a Russian-protected land connection to Armenia, and that Azerbaijan will have Russian-protected communication lines and transport links through Armenia to the Azeri exclave of Nakhchivan.

But if Azerbaijan might seem the victor and Armenia the loser, the situation is more complicated for both.

For Baku, this is more of a Faustian bargain than a victory. Azerbaijan acquired seven territories around Nagorno-Karabakh, previously occupied by Armenia, and will get to keep the territorial gains it made in the enclave, but will have to accept constraints on its future foreign policy and security.

With Russian military presence on what is internationally recognized as Azerbaijan's territory, and Russian security personnel ensuring Azerbaijani access to its exclave in Nakhchivan, Moscow suddenly acquires much more security leverage in the country.



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (7) [FONTE: Nicu Popescu / Politico 11/11/2020]

Nagorno-Karabakh will now look more like Georgia's secessionist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia before 2008. Georgia's two separatist regions have long been geopolitically convenient conflict zones that allowed Russia to raise or lower the security temperature to influence domestic politics and the security situation in Georgia.

As a result, however, Armenia finds itself in the much more difficult situation of having dramatically increased its already high dependence on Moscow, with what remains of Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh now indefensible without Russia. Yerevan now faces the possibility that Russia will push it even harder into making painful concessions in domestic or foreign policy.

The real winners of the latest flare-up over Nagorno-Karabakh, ultimately, are Turkey and Russia. Moscow has tightened the screws of its control of Armenia and the country's domestic and foreign policies. It also has much more military and security leverage on future developments in Azerbaijan.

Turkey also has cause for celebration. Its ally Azerbaijan re-acquired its seven districts and part of Nagorno-Karabakh thanks in large part to Turkish support. The Turkish military and Turkish-made drones got good publicity, as did Turkey's credibility as a power that truly supports its allies (unlike Russia). And despite Turkey's bold military maneuvering, Ankara and Moscow's capacity to remain on good terms remained unshaken.

None of the above bodes well for the EU's own foreign policy and international profile.

# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (8) [FONTE: NBCNews 14/10/2020]

## **Cheap drones from China, Turkey and Israel are fueling conflicts like Armenia and Azerbaijan's**

Oct. 14, 2020, 9:30 AM WEST

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been in a state of conflict for several decades over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, but a deluge of grisly video released by the combatants in recent days shows that it's now being fought in a newer high-tech — and highly lethal — fashion.



— A Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drone at Gecitkale air base near Famagusta, Northern Cyprus, on Dec. 16. Birol Bebek / AFP - Getty Images file

# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (9) [FONTE: Ron Synovitz / Radio Free Europe 13/11/2020]

## **Technology, Tactics, And Turkish Advice Lead Azerbaijan To Victory In Nagorno-Karabakh**

[Ron Synovitz](#)

It took Azerbaijan just 43 days to win back its territory around the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh -- seven districts of mountains and foothills that were occupied by Armenian separatists since Baku's humiliating battlefield failures of the early 1990s.

Analysts say three factors explain why Azerbaijan was so successful in the battlefield this time: technology, tactics, and Turkey.

Alex Melikishvili, a research analyst at IHS Markit Country Risk, says it was Turkish support for Azerbaijan that made the war "qualitatively different from all previous conflagrations."

Melikishvili says the presence of Turkish F-16 fighter jets at a military airfield in Ganca, Azerbaijan's second-largest city, was "tangible confirmation" that the geopolitical balance in the South Caucasus had shifted in Azerbaijan's favor.



# A vitória da Rússia (e da Turquia) no conflito do Nagorno-Karabach (10) [FONTE: Ron Synovitz / Radio Free Europe 13/11/2020]

## **Superior Weapons Technology**

While Azerbaijan hasn't released casualty figures for its troops, it has made no secret about its use of the latest high-tech drones it purchased from Turkey and Israel to carry out air strikes and battlefield reconnaissance.

Drone footage released by Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry after fighting broke out on September 27 revealed the havoc wreaked by Baku's UAVs - the destruction of Armenian tanks, artillery, ground fortifications, and Margarita Karamian, an ethnic Armenian veteran of the 1992-1994 war from the town of Hadrut, said she was shocked when she saw formations of up to 30 Azerbaijani drones "darken the sky" over Nagorno-Karabakh's southeastern flank during the first wave of the Azerbaijani military offensive.

Forced to admit it was a "different war" than the early 1990s, Karamian said ethnic Armenian forces -- including her own son and husband -- had to quickly learn to seek cover underground against the pilotless aerial assaults.

The Armenian forces were simply "overwhelmed by Azerbaijan's technological superiority in the battlefield," said Can Kasapoglu, director of the Security and Defense Research Program at the Istanbul-based Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM).



## PARTE II – NOTAS BREVES

### (Economía Política Internacional)



# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (1) [FONTE: SCMP, 15/11/2020]

China / Diplomacy

## China, 14 Asian partners sign world's biggest trade pact

- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which covers about 30 per cent of global GDP, signed on sidelines of virtual Asean summit
- Agreement 'solidifies China's broader regional geopolitical ambitions around the Belt and Road Initiative', trade expert says



Agence France-Presse

Published: 2:38pm, 15 Nov, 2020

[Why you can trust SCMP](#)





# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (2) [FONTE: China Daily, 15/11/2020]

## **RCEP free trade deal signed among 15 participating countries**

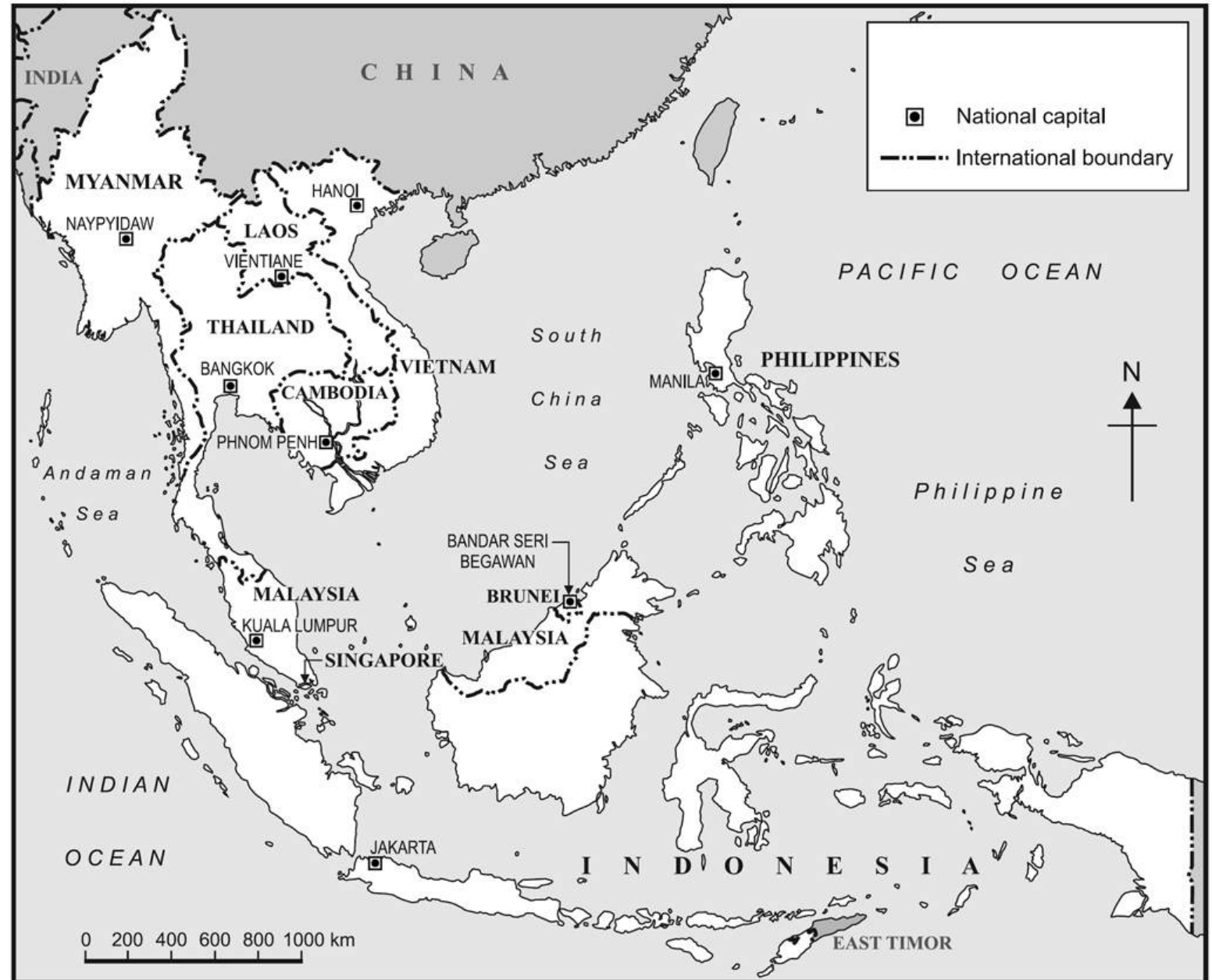
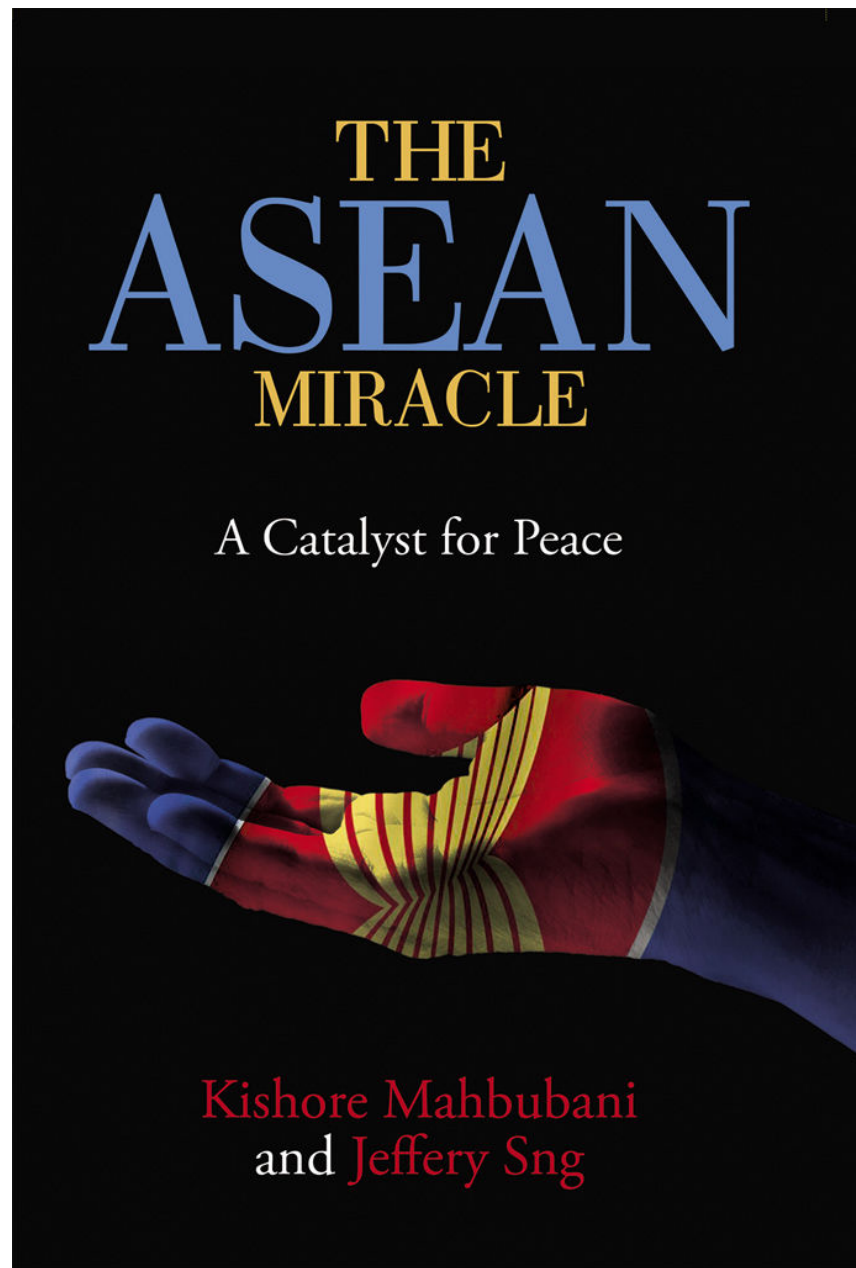


HANOI - The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement was signed among its 15 participating countries Sunday, launching the world's biggest free trade bloc.

Participating countries include the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The signing of the RCEP is "a victory of multilateralism and free trade," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Sunday.

# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (3) [FONTE: Países da ASEAN]



# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (4) [FONTE: Governo da Austrália]



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## Trade and investment

For Australian exporters and importers



Engage with DFAT



Australia's free trade agreements (FTAs)

└ FTAs under negotiation



└ Free trade agreements in force



└ FTAs not yet in force

## Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

### About The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

RCEP is a regional free trade agreement that will complement and build upon Australia's existing free trade agreements with 14 other Indo-Pacific countries. It is a modern and comprehensive free trade agreement covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, and new rules for electronic commerce, intellectual property, government procurement, competition, and small and medium sized enterprises.

### RCEP market snapshot

- GDP: US\$26.3 trillion
- Population: 2.3 billion
- Trade with Australia: \$532.6 billion (2019)

#### CONTACT US

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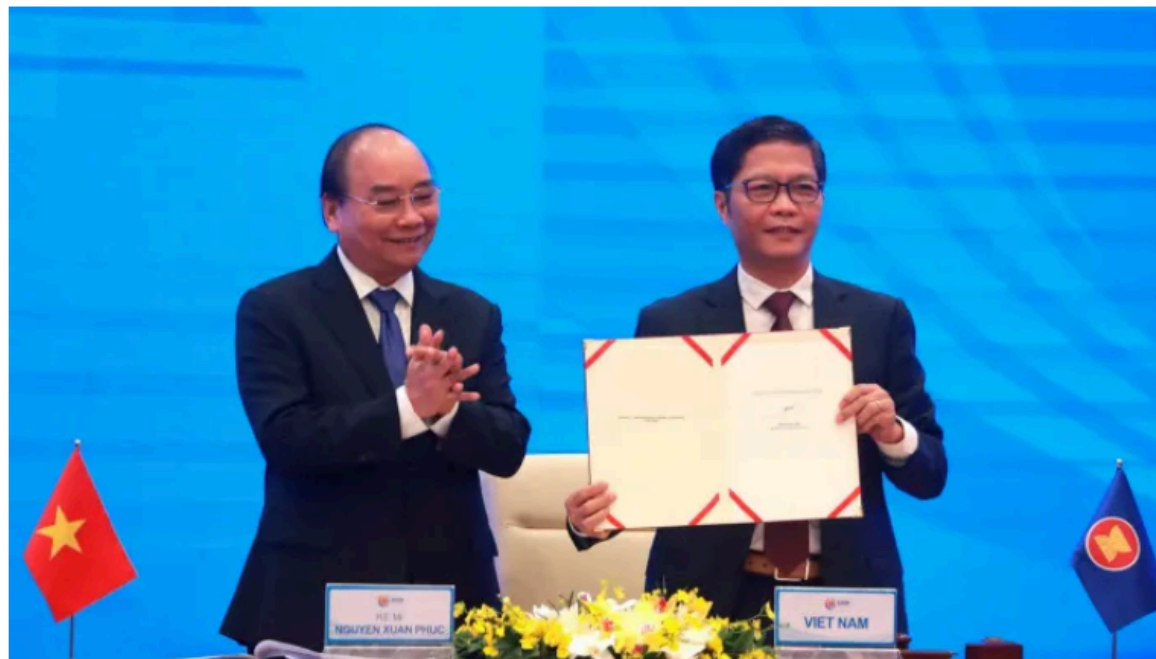


# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (5) [FONTE: FT, 15/11/2020]

## Asia-Pacific countries sign one of the largest free trade deals in history

Pan-Asia trade pact covers a third of the world's population and economic output

7 hours ago



Vietnamese prime minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, left, and trade minister Tran Tuan Anh at the virtual signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership © AP

Leaders from 15 Asia-Pacific nations on Sunday sealed one of the biggest trade deals in history, seeking to reduce barriers in an area covering a third of the world's population and economic output.

# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (6) [FONTE: FT, 15/11/2020]

The [RCEP](#) takes most of the existing agreements signed by the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and combines them into a single multilateral pact with Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

By combining a mishmash of separate arrangements into a single deal, RCEP brings Asia a step closer to becoming a coherent trading zone like the EU or North America, even if it is not expected to lead to large overall tariff reductions.

China's premier Li Keqiang described the agreement as "a victory of multilateralism and free trade", according to a report from the official Xinhua news agency.

Japan and South Korea are expected to be among the biggest winners from the deal, but the benefit of cheaper goods will spread as far as Europe and the US.

"We signed [RCEP] today, after a tough slog of eight years," said Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's prime minister, on Sunday. "This is a major step forward for our region. At a time when multilateralism is losing ground, and global growth is slowing, the RCEP shows Asian countries' support for open and connected supply chains, freer trade and closer interdependence."

Analysts said the deal is likely to further diminish US influence in the region after President Donald Trump withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, another large regional trading pact.

# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (7) [FONTE: FT, 15/11/2020]

The deal would have been even larger but [India withdrew](#) from the talks in 2019 and has so far refused to come back, heightening concerns among some signatories that China will dominate the pact.

Indian businesses had feared a deluge of cheap Chinese imports, and complained the deal would have done little to advance trade in services, an area where India has an advantage.

"By some measures, this is the largest free trade agreement in history," said Peter Petri, professor of international finance at Brandeis University. "About 30 per cent of the world's people are covered."

According to [estimates by Prof Petri and Michael Plummer](#), a professor of international economics at Johns Hopkins University, RCEP will add \$186bn to the size of the global economy and 0.2 per cent to the gross domestic product of its members.

"From a global perspective, the RCEP agreement, even if a littler shallower than other 'megadeals', signals that Asia keeps pushing ahead with trade liberalisation even as other regions have become more sceptical," said Fred Neumann, co-head of Asian economic research at HSBC.



# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (8) [FONTE: Global Times, 15/11/2020]

## **RCEP will end US hegemony in West Pacific**



RCEP Photo: IC

China and 14 other Asia-Pacific nations, including 10 ASEAN member countries and Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, are set to sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement on Sunday. The signatories of the pact, however, do not include the US which has been traditionally regarded as a dominate player in the Asia-Pacific region.

The conclusion of the RCEP indicates that the majority of Asian countries endorse an Asia-wide regional free trade framework that works to benefit all Asian economies and see it as a landmark step toward achieving closer economic integration in East and Southeast Asia.

# A Parceria Económica Abrangente Regional (RECEP) (9) [FONTE: Global Times, 15/11/2020]



The RCEP sends out the message that Asian countries do not want to choose sides between the US and China.

More significantly, they are not willing to blindly follow the US and exclude China, the biggest and most vibrant Asian economy, from the region's integration process. A sound and healthy economic community in Asia cannot be achieved without China's participation. Of course, the concept of open regionalism embraced by China also welcomes America's participation in this cause.

RCEP's rise was initially an ASEAN response to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a mega free trade agreement dominated by the US since it joined the negotiations in 2008. TPP membership included some Asian countries, but excluded many others. Most significantly, it excluded China, the world's second-largest economy and the largest trading partner of almost all Asian economies.

The TPP was also an alarm to ASEAN because, before the TPP, Asian economic integration was driven and led by ASEAN, the largest regional organization in Asia. The TPP would divide Asia, slow down Asia's own economic integration process, and marginalize ASEAN.

Against that backdrop, Asian economies launched RECP negotiations in 2012, under the leadership of ASEAN and with the enthusiastic support from China and other Asian economies. To some extent, RCEP reflects Asian countries' will to take the matter of regional economic integration in their own hands. Though they all welcome US input in the process, they are not inclined to see TPP-centric encirclement of China.



# Sugestões de leitura

