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Teaching Case

The game of thrones

BRUNO GOULART BRAGA [1]

CARLOS ALEXANDRE BELO CASTILHO [1]

FABIO HIDEO NUMAO [1]

MONIQUE MUNIZ DE OLIVEIRA [1]

PEDRO HENRIQUE DE PAULA GOMES [1]

[1] Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV EBAPE) / Escola Brasileira de Administração Pública e de Empresas, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

Abstract

This teaching case presents the dichotomy between administration and politics, highlighting the challenge political leaders face in balancing administrative objectives – such as national security, public policies, and economic growth – with political considerations, such as international alliances. The case examines the fictional scenario of a leader from a nation called the Lands of Vera Cruz, who is confronted with a decision during a geopolitical crisis that threatens his kingdom's security and economy. The role of Vera Cruz in the territorial conflict between the Kingdom of Caracas and the Kingdom of Guyroa over the Region of the Land of Golden Waters involves migration issues, public policy development, sovereignty, and natural resource exploitation. As an influential kingdom and a regional leader, Vera Cruz plays a crucial role in managing this conflict, seeking a peaceful resolution based on the laws of the County of the South and the League of Kingdoms.

Keywords: Dichotomy. Geopolitics. Administration. Migration crisis. Public policies.

O jogo dos tronos

Resumo

Este caso de ensino apresenta a dicotomia administração/política com o desafio enfrentado por líderes políticos ao equilibrar objetivos administrativos – como segurança nacional, políticas públicas e crescimento econômico – com considerações políticas, como alianças internacionais. Ele examina o cenário fictício de um líder de uma nação chamada Terras de Vera Cruz, que é confrontado com uma decisão durante uma

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crise geopolítica que ameaça tanto a segurança quanto a economia de seu reino. O papel de Terras de Vera Cruz no conflito territorial entre o Reino de Caracas e o Reino de Guyroa pela Região da Terra das Águas Douradas envolve questões migratórias e de desenvolvimento de políticas públicas, além da soberania e da exploração de recursos naturais. Vera Cruz, como um reino influente e líder na região, desempenha um papel crucial na gestão desse conflito, buscando uma solução pacífica e baseada nas leis do Condado do Sul e da Liga dos Reinos.

Palavras-chave: Dicotomia. Geopolítica. Administração. Crise migratória. Políticas públicas.

El Juego de los Tronos

Resumen

Este caso de estudio presenta la dicotomía administración/política con el desafío que enfrentan los líderes políticos al equilibrar objetivos administrativos, como la seguridad nacional, las políticas públicas y el crecimiento económico, con consideraciones políticas, como las alianzas internacionales. Examina el escenario ficticio de un líder de una nación llamada Tierras de Vera Cruz, quien se enfrenta a una decisión durante una crisis geopolítica que amenaza tanto la seguridad como la economía de su reino. El papel de Tierras de Vera Cruz en el conflicto territorial entre el Reino de Caracas y el Reino de Guyroa por la Región de la Tierra de las Aguas Doradas involucra cuestiones migratorias y de desarrollo de políticas públicas, además de la soberanía y la explotación de recursos naturales. Vera Cruz, como un reino influyente y líder en la región, desempeña un papel crucial en la gestión de este conflicto, buscando una solución pacífica y basada en las leyes del Condado del Sur y de la Liga de los Reinos.

Palabras clave: Dicotomía. Geopolítica. Administración. Crisis migratoria. Políticas públicas.

INTRODUCTON

The region of Golden Waters Land has been the stage of a long and complex territorial conflict between the kingdoms of Caracas and Guyroa. This territory, rich in natural resources, is the object of territorial dispute between the two kingdoms in the Southern County. While the kingdom of Guyroa considers it an integral part of its territory, the kingdom of Caracas claims sovereignty over the region, based on historical requirements. As a regional and global power, Vera Cruz Lands plays a crucial role in managing this conflict, besides having strategic and economic interests.

The territorial dispute dates back to the 14th century, when the Britannian Empire controlled the Kingdom of Guyroa and the Kingdom of Caracas was a colony of the Hispanian Empire. After the Caracan independence, the country claimed the region of Golden Waters Land on grounds of colonial treaties. However, the Britannian Empire continued to exercise control over the disputed territory. After its independence, the kingdom of Guyroa inherited the territorial dispute with the kingdom of Caracas.

As one of the main regional powers in the Southern County, Vera Cruz Lands has played a role as mediator in this conflict. Verian diplomacy has been seeking a peaceful solution based on the laws of the County and the League of Kingdoms for the territorial dispute between Caracas and Guyroa, emphasizing the importance of respecting treaties and the territorial integrity of the kingdoms involved.

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A peaceful resolution for the conflict would contribute to promoting regional diplomacy and strengthening bonds of cooperation between the countries in the Southern County. In addition, Vera Cruz could achieve its strategic goals of remaining the leading kingdom in the Southern County and the main negotiator of the region's issues.

Over the years, however, the relations between Vera Cruz and Caracas have also been affected by several factors, including ideological differences, internal political divergence in Caracas, and changes in the direction of Verian foreign policy. Caracas does not depend economically on Vera Cruz, making it difficult to control its king's attitudes. In addition, the reign of the current king of Caracas – Nicholas, known as the Dominator – faced criticism from other kingdoms both inside and outside the Southern County for allegations of slavery, torture and cruel punishments, religious and ideological persecution, and economic and political crises, which led to Vera Cruz distancing itself.

This has led inhabitants of the kingdom of Caracas to migrate to the kingdom of Vera Cruz, in order to escape this dictatorial regime. Thousands of Caracans have crossed the border for refuge, fleeing the economic, political, and social crisis that plagues their kingdom. In Vera Cruz, this growing migratory wave has burdened public services, especially in villages in the border regions, where resources are already limited. The increased demand for shelter, health care, and education has put pressure on local authorities and humanitarian organizations, while issues related to security and cultural integration also arise as challenges to be faced.

The dilemma faced by Vera Cruz Lands at this point concerns how to avoid the escalation of conflict by reducing the entry of immigrants into Vera Cruz, implementing public policies to address this instability, and fostering a collaborative and supportive approach between the kingdoms in the region to manage a growing humanitarian crisis. This approach would also aim to secure stability in the region, creating opportunities for future trade and resource exploitation alliances.

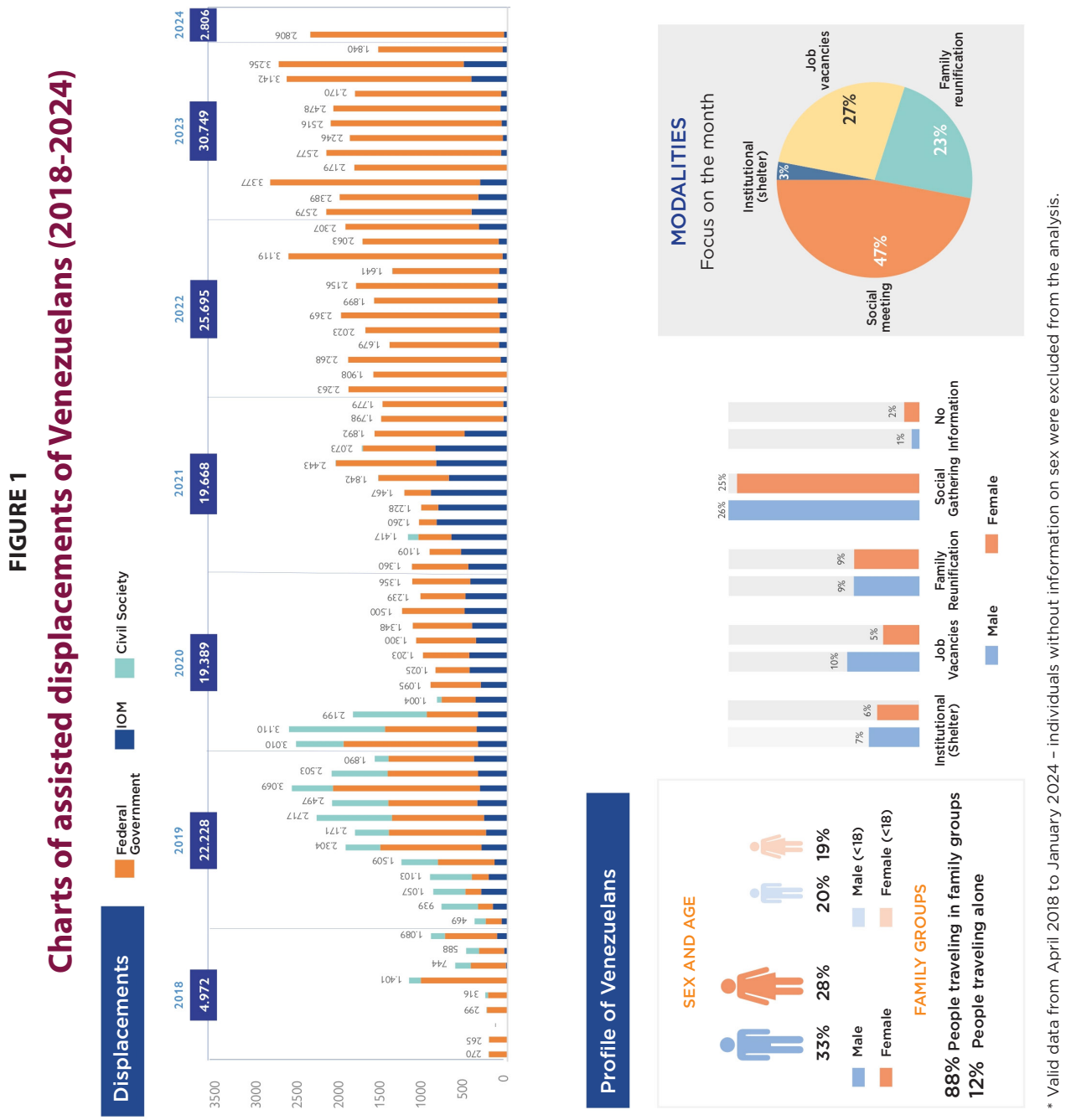
This dichotomy between public administration and politics regarding Vera Cruz's role in this conflict highlights the complexity of relations between government management and political decision-making, emphasizing the need for balance between administrative efficiency and the pursuit of political and strategic objectives.

THE REGION OF GOLDEN WATERS LAND IN FIGURES

- 300,000 inhabitants.
- 160,000 km ^{2} in total area.
- 110,800 km ^{2} of gold, copper, diamond, iron, bauxite, aluminum, and other resource exploration areas.
- Reserve of 11 billion barrels of oil (0.6% of global production).
- Large offshore oil reserves.
- 17 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
- One of the largest river networks in the world, capable of generating energy and supporting the transport of goods.
- Large forest reserve.

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FIGURE 1



* Valid data from April 2018 to January 2024 – individuals without information on sex were excluded from the analysis.

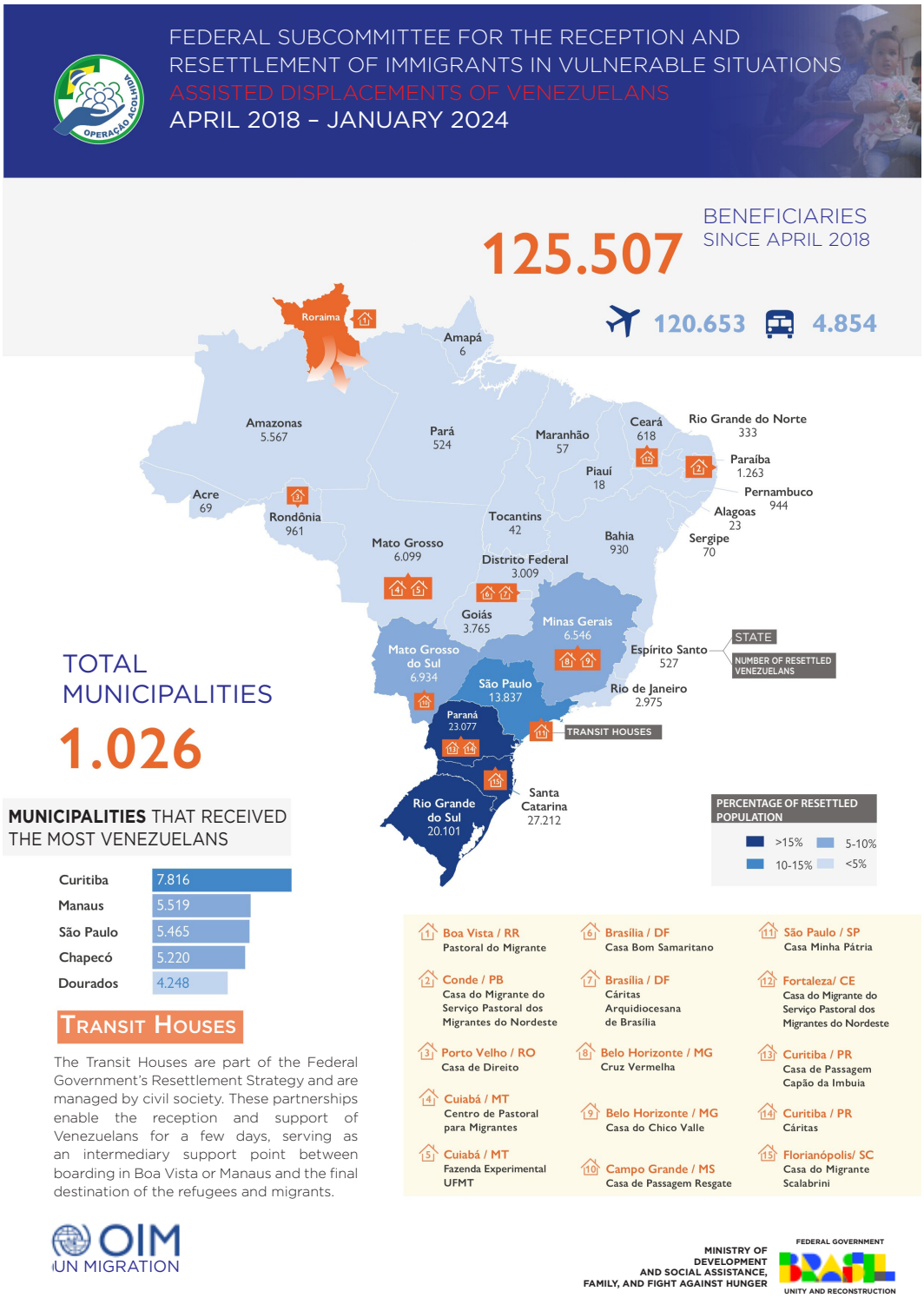
Source: International Organization for Migration (2024).[1]

[1] INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION. **Deslocamentos assistidos de venezuelanos**. 2024. Available at: https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1496/files/documents/2024-03/informe_deslocamentos-assistidos-de-venezuelanos_fev24.pdf. Accessed on: June 08, 2024.

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FIGURE 2

Map of assisted displacements of Venezuelans (2018-2024)



Source: International Organization for Migration (2024).[1]

[1] INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION. **Assisted displacements of Venezuelans.** 2024. Available at: https://brazil.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1496/files/documents/2024-02/informe_deslocamentos-assistidos-de-venezuelanos_jan24.pdf Accessed on: June 08, 2024.

LET THE GAME OF THRONES BEGIN

Act I: Diplomatic riddles in Golden Waters Land

While Vera Cruz envoys discuss the complex situation in the Golden Waters Land region, the royal court convenes a meeting to assess the escalation of tensions between the kingdoms of Caracas and Guyroa. At this meeting, the need for a balanced and active approach is highlighted, emphasizing the importance of maintaining open channels with both parties.

Sir Pedro: Lady Ana, as ambassadors we need to discuss our strategy for the conflict between Caracas and Guyroa for Golden Waters Land.

Lady Ana: I agree, Sir Pedro. The situation is increasingly delicate, and Vera Cruz needs to maintain a balanced position.

Sir Pedro: Yes, we are dealing with economic interests, regional security concerns, and the need to preserve our diplomatic relations. Especially regarding the migration issues. The arrival of people from the Kingdom of Caracas has been increasing steadily each day. With the escalation of the conflict, this number is likely to multiply, and we will not have enough public policies to support this demand or uphold order in our kingdom. What does the king think about it?

Lady Ana: That is what we will know now, as soon as the king arrives. We must continue to seek a peaceful solution through dialogue and mediation, but without taking sides in favor of any of the kingdoms involved. That is the king's position.

Sir Pedro: But you know that this can be a problem for Vera Cruz, don't you? Not taking sides in favor of any of the kingdoms could undermine Vera Cruz's leadership in the Southern County and fail to resolve the issue with Caracan immigrants that continues to escalate.

The king arrives for the meeting.

King of Vera Cruz: Good afternoon, noble ambassadors and counselors. The reason for this meeting is to discuss the recent escalation of tensions between the kingdoms of Caracas and Guyroa over Golden Waters Land. As you know, this could directly affect our regional interests. Counselors, what do you have to report regarding this issue?

Sir Pedro: My lord, the situation is increasingly delicate. Guyroa has asked for our help, but we also need to keep an open channel with Caracas to avoid an even greater escalation of problems. Moreover, I seek Your Majesty's attention to a matter of great importance. The migratory flight of Caracans to our lands has intensified, bringing with it a series of challenges that we can no longer ignore.

Lady Ana: The situation is serious, Your Majesty. The Caracans are fleeing a terrible crisis in their homeland, caused by the regime of Nicolas the Dominator. They have sought refuge within our borders in search of shelter, food, and security.

King of Vera Cruz: And how does this affect our lands?

Sir Pedro: The growing arrival of these refugees has burdened our resources, especially in border regions. Our cities face challenges in providing shelter, medical care, and education to these new inhabitants.

King of Vera Cruz: I see. We must act to help these people in need, but we also need to ensure the safety and well-being of our people.

Lady Ana: In addition, Your Majesty, I suggest that we maintain a neutral but active stance, seeking to encourage dialogue between the parties and offering our mediation if necessary.

King of Vera Cruz: Exactly. We need to show our commitment to regional stability and prevent external interests from exacerbating the conflict. We will keep in touch with the other kingdoms in the Southern County region and with other counties to coordinate our actions. We will convene a meeting first with our Security Council and then with the leaders of the affected regions to seek joint solutions to address this challenge. I thank you for bringing this issue to my attention, my loyal ambassadors.

Sir Pedro: We will do our best, Your Majesty, to maintain dialogue between the kingdoms and find a solution.

After that, at a meeting of the Kingdom's Security Council, Verian authorities discussed the options available and the need to preserve national interests in the face of instability in the region. As the negotiations progressed, Guyroa representatives requested Vera Cruz's support, while the kingdom sought to maintain a neutral but active position, aiming to encourage dialogue and offer mediation.

King of Vera Cruz: We are here to discuss the situation regarding the conflict in the Golden Waters Land region. What are our options?

Master of the Military Order: Your Majesty, we need to strengthen our borders and ensure the security of the kingdom amid the instability in the region.

Grand Chancellor: I believe, Your Majesty, that we must continue our active diplomacy and seek a peaceful solution to the conflict, acting as neutral mediators.

King of Vera Cruz: And what do you suggest we do about the migration issue of the Caracan refugees?

Royal Counselor: If Your Majesty allows me, I agree with the opinion of our Master of the Military Order and our Grand Chancellor. However, I think we should also consider the economic impact of this situation and how it can affect our interests in the region. In addition, on the migration issue, Your Majesty, I propose that we establish reception and integration policies, seeking the support of other kingdoms in the county and the League of Kingdoms. We can also strengthen our borders and increase cooperation with other kingdoms to deal with this crisis effectively.

Grand Chancellor: If Your Majesty allows me to report, the envoy of the Kingdom of Guyroa is here and has requested a hearing with Your Majesty.

King of Vera Cruz: Show him in.

The envoy of Guyroa then enters the room.

Envoy of Guyroa: I thank you for receiving me, Your Majesty, noble counselors. We are facing a difficult situation with the Kingdom of Caracas and are seeking the support of Vera Cruz to avoid further escalation.

Royal Counselor: We understand the seriousness of the situation, and Vera Cruz is willing to offer all possible assistance. However, we also need to ensure that our actions do not worsen the situation.

Envoy of Guyroa: We understand, Your Majesty, but we need military and diplomatic support to face Caracas' threats. We count on Vera Cruz's solidarity at this crucial moment. In fact, we have also sought help from the Northern Kingdom for military support should the Kingdom of Caracas launch an onslaught against Guyroa. And, as everyone in this room knows, the Northern Kingdom is one of the richest kingdoms in the world, and in exchange for that support, it is considering placing a permanent military base in Guyroa.

Master of the Military Order: Your Majesty, a permanent Northern Kingdom military base in Guyroa would be a problem, as it would threaten our sovereignty in the Southern County.

King of Vera Cruz: Well, we will evaluate the options available and continue the dialogue to find the best way to help Guyroa without increasing tensions in the region.

Act II: In the Den of the Lions

Amid this delicate scenario, a message received from the Caracas authorities reveals the complexity of relations in the region, with Vera Cruz seeking a peaceful solution while respecting the sovereignty of the kingdoms involved.

In meetings with representatives of other kingdoms, such as Caracas and the League of Kingdoms, Vera Cruz reaffirms its commitment to regional stability and seeks to coordinate efforts to avoid escalating the conflict.

The king of Vera Cruz appoints a delegation of ambassadors to go to the Kingdom of Caracas.

Caracan Envoy: Ambassadors of Vera Cruz Lands, welcome to the Kingdom of Caracas! We are ambassadors of the Caracan kingdom, and we want to resolve this conflict fairly and peacefully.

Verian Delegation: Of course, we are willing to help in the mediation process, but both sides need to be open to dialogue and committed to a solution based on Southern County laws.

Caracan Envoy: Thank you for the support of Vera Cruz in this process. Let's proceed to the noble hall. The Caracas authorities are awaiting us.

The Vera Cruz delegation enters the hall of the Caracas Kingdom Castle and engages in a debate with the Grand Chancellor of Caracas.

Vera Cruz Envoy: Madam, as an envoy from Vera Cruz Lands, I would like to discuss the current situation between the kingdoms of Caracas and Guyroa and explore ways to reduce tensions in the region.

Grand Chancellor of Caracas: I understand your concern, but Caracas will not tolerate any external interference in our internal affairs, especially regarding Golden Waters Land. That is the order of the king.

Vera Cruz Envoy: I understand your position, but we want to find a peaceful solution that respects the interests of both kingdoms. Vera Cruz is willing to mediate negotiations should it become necessary.

Grand Chancellor of Caracas: I will report your proposal to our king, but I cannot guarantee anything. The situation is already quite tense here, and the king has been looking for ways to unite the people to maintain his hold on power. The claim of sovereignty over Golden Waters Land is the perfect pretext for this.

Vera Cruz Envoy: Thank you for receiving us. I will bring your position to the king of Vera Cruz.

A meeting with the League of Kingdoms, made up of representatives of the kingdoms of other counties, is called by Vera Cruz due to news of political instability in the Southern County having spread, raising fear among counties doing business with the region, as well as concerns over an increase in refugees coming from the Kingdom of Caracas.

Verian Envoy: Greetings. I thank you all for attending this meeting. As you know, the situation between Caracas and Guyroa over control of Golden Waters Land is deteriorating rapidly, and we must act urgently to prevent an even greater conflict.

Representative of the League of Kingdoms: I agree. We are closely monitoring the situation and stand ready to offer mediation if requested by the kingdoms involved.

Verian Envoy: Vera Cruz is willing to lead mediation efforts, but we also rely on the support of the League of Kingdoms to find a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict.

Noble Representative of the League of Kingdoms: I also come to address the increasing migratory flight of Caracans to your lands.

Verian Envoy: Ah, so the League of Kingdoms is aware of this issue as well?

Representative of the League of Kingdoms: Yes. This issue affects not only your domains but the entire region. The mass flight of these refugees is threatening the stability of our kingdoms and calls for a united response.

Verian Envoy: Yes. It is time to work together to address this crisis. How do you propose we proceed?

Representative of the League of Kingdoms: I propose that we coordinate efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those seeking refuge in your lands. We can establish support points and safe routes for their arrival, as well as share resources and responsibilities among the league's member kingdoms.

Verian Envoy: An excellent suggestion. We must also collaborate closely with international organizations to ensure an effective and coordinated response. I appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention, noble representative. Together, we can address this challenge with compassion and solidarity.

Act III: Cast the First Stone

Meanwhile, in the kingdom of Vera Cruz, the Verian nobles convene an assembly to discuss the position of the King of Vera Cruz regarding the conflicts. The debates in the city's streets and within the Assembly of the Kingdom of Vera Cruz highlight the diversity of opinions and the challenges facing the kingdom.

At the Vera Cruz Assembly…

"We must take sides in this conflict and support Guyroa against Caracas!"

"We cannot involve ourselves in such sensitive issues. We need to maintain a neutral position and pursue a peaceful solution."

"I agree. We must rely on Verian diplomacy to resolve this impasse in a fair and balanced manner."

"For I believe that if we do not support Guyroa, our economic interests will be disrupted by the Kingdom of Caracas."

However, in the kingdom's streets…

"You know, I'm tired of this whole situation with the Caracans coming here."

"I totally agree. Don't we have enough problems in our own kingdom? Now we must cope with more people wanting it all for free."

"That's true, our hospitals and schools are already crowded. We don't have the resources to handle all these people."

"And what's worse, many of them are taking our jobs, competing with us for work. As if we weren't already struggling to support our own families."

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"And the king does nothing to solve this. It seems we're being forgotten, while they prioritize the foreigners."

"Something has to be done. We cannot simply allow them to continue arriving without any control. This is affecting the quality of life for all of us."

"I agree. We need to pressure the authorities to take serious steps to address this situation. We can no longer bear the weight of this migration crisis."

Realizing that the restlessness of the Verian people was growing daily due to Vera Cruz's position in the conflict, the counselors suggested that the king deliver a public speech emphasizing Vera Cruz's commitment to pursuing a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Golden Waters Land, acting as a regional leader in promoting stability and cooperation, while also safeguarding its economic interests, sovereignty, and, most importantly, the leadership of the Southern County.

Verian nobles: Your Majesty, in light of the escalating tensions in Golden Waters Land, how does Vera Cruz plan to act to resolve this impasse?

King of Vera Cruz: Vera Cruz is deeply concerned about the situation in Golden Waters Land. We are in direct contact with the authorities of Guyroa and Caracas, working to achieve a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the conflict. Additionally, we are collaborating with other kingdoms to find a solution that respects the interests of all parties involved.

Verian nobles: Is there the possibility of Vera Cruz intervening militarily in the region?

King of Vera Cruz: Our priority is to resolve this dispute in a peaceful and diplomatic manner. Military intervention is not in Vera Cruz's plans at this time. We are committed to dialogue and mediation as the main instruments for finding a solution to this crisis.

Peasants of Vera Cruz: What about Vera Cruz's economic interests in the region? How do these influence the position of the kingdom?

King of Vera Cruz: It is important to emphasize that Vera Cruz seeks a solution that preserves both peace and economic interests in the region. We are aware of the importance of these interests, but we believe that regional stability is key to long-term sustainable development. We are committed to finding a balance between these two aspects.

King of Vera Cruz: My people, I know that many of you are concerned about the situation of Venezuelan refugees seeking shelter in our lands. I want to assure you all that we are aware of the challenges this situation brings and are taking steps to address it appropriately.

Peasants of Vera Cruz: But, Your Majesty, how can we ensure that our resources are not overburdened because of this?

King of Vera Cruz: I understand your concerns, my subjects. That is why we are developing public policies to ensure that resources are allocated fairly and effectively. We are working to strengthen

our health, education, and social security systems so that we can receive these refugees with dignity while protecting our people.

Peasants of Vera Cruz: What about jobs, Your Majesty? Many of us already struggle to find enough work to support our families.

King of Vera Cruz: I understand your concerns, which is why we are also implementing integration and professional training programs for the refugees. We want to ensure that they become productive members of our society, contributing to our economic growth, rather than competing directly with our citizens for jobs.

Peasants of Vera Cruz: Thank you for hearing us, Your Majesty. His words bring us some comfort amid this concern.

King of Vera Cruz: It is my duty as your sovereign to ensure the well-being of all my subjects. We shall continue to work tirelessly to face this issue with compassion and pragmatism. Together, we will overcome these challenges and build a better future for all of us.

CASE CLOSURE

Time passes, and negotiations continue, with Vera Cruz acting as mediator between Caracas and Guyroa. However, internal and external pressures complicate the mediation process, requiring a careful and strategic approach by Vera Cruz. Tensions rise as the two kingdoms leave the Southern County and seek outside assistance to protect their interests.

Guyroa negotiates military support from the Northern Kingdom, which often funds wars to extend its influence. The Kingdom of Caracas, facing severe internal crises in its economy and declining popular approval, seeks support from the Kingdom of Ruskaia, known historically for territorial invasions. Ruskaia has an autocratic regime, immense military power, and ongoing territorial disputes with the Northern Kingdom on a global scale.

The King of Vera Cruz reassures his people regarding the refugee crisis, emphasizing that the government is aware of the challenges and is implementing public policies to address them. He underscores the commitment to distributing resources fairly and effectively, strengthening essential services, and promoting the integration of refugees into society. The king also highlights the importance of professional training programs to alleviate concerns about job competition.

And the game goes on...

TEACHING NOTE

The teaching notes[2] have restricted access and are only available to professors and instructors associated with an academic institution upon request.

VIDEO MATERIAL

The case includes a video[3] material of approximately 10 minutes.

[2] https://doi.org/10.12660/rgplp.v23n1.2024.92412
[3] https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14052860

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AUTHORS

BRUNO GOULART BRAGA
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0003-1072-2525
Master's student in Administration at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV EBAPE). E-mail: bgbraga13@gmail.com

CARLOS ALEXANDRE BELO CASTILHO
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0006-1772-8622
Master's student in Administration at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV EBAPE). E-mail: cabelocastilho@hotmail.com

FABIO HIDEO NUMAO
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0005-9542-1020
Master's student in Administration at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV EBAPE). E-mail: fabio.numao@rfb.gov.br

MONIQUE MUNIZ DE OLIVEIRA
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0007-8383-9571
Master's student in Administration from the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV EBAPE). E-mail: moniquemunizoliveirak@gmail.com

PEDRO HENRIQUE DE PAULA GOMES
ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0004-8950-7613
Master's student in Administration at the Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV EBAPE). E-mail: phpg.rj@gmail.com

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Bruno Goulart Braga: Conceptualization (Equal); Project administration (Supporting); Writing - original draft (Supporting); Writing - review & editing (Equal).

Carlos Alexandre Belo Castilho: Conceptualization (Equal); Project administration (Supporting); Writing - original draft (Supporting); Writing - review & editing (Equal).

Fabio Hideo Numao: Conceptualization (Equal); Project administration (Supporting); Writing - original draft (Supporting); Writing - review & editing (Equal).

Monique Muniz de Oliveira: Conceptualization (Equal); Project administration (Supporting); Software (Lead); Supervision (Lead); Validation (Lead); Visualization (Lead); Writing - original draft (Supporting); Writing - review & editing (Equal).

Pedro Henrique de Paula Gomes: Conceptualization (Equal); Project administration (Supporting); Writing - original draft (Supporting); Writing - review & editing (Equal).

DATA AVAILABILITY

The entire dataset supporting the results of this study was published in the article itself.