Abstract
The article analyzes the classifications assigned to the Strait of Magellan in the
political-territorial configuration of the New World during the sixteenth century and
related global dynamics happening at the time. The text is divided into three parts. The
first is a theoretical reading of the historiographic problems and the temporalities
surrounding the discovery of the Strait, which led to its identification as a “world-
passage.” The second examines the facts, actors and territorialities that consolidated it
as a geopolitical reference point between 1520 and 1560. And, finally, the third studies
the variations in its strategic importance in the period between 1560-1580, variations
that reveal its role in delineating, synchronizing and speculating on a series of
continental issues that affected simultaneously local and global spaces.

Author keywords
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