



Agribusiness, Urbanization and Socio-Spatial Inequalities

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Beside the metropolitan process, the Brazilian urbanization presents, during the last decades, significant changes related to the growth of medium and local cities. In order to recognize these transformations, it is necessary to comprehend how the non-metropolitan urban spaces have been produced in association to productive restructuring of agriculture. The agrarian and non-metropolitan urban spaces appear extremely opened for the expansion of now existing systems of objects and actions, in which the agro-industrial networks have been installed. In fact, where the farming activity is rationally based on intensive use of capital, technology and information, it is visible the increment of urbanization by the increase of the number and size of the cities. Such a reality instigates the re-functioning of the agrarian spaces, leading to the diffusion of productive territorial specializations, pointing out various selectivities in terms of the production organization and the dynamics of the agrarian space in itself, as well. Our main objective is to recognize processes and dynamics of the re-production of the non metropolitan urban spaces and the new relationships among the cities and the countryside, promoted by the implementation of agro-industrial complexes, considering specially the cities which play a role of intermediate in the Brazilian urban network, where the management sectors of these complexes are placed. The spread of globalized agribusiness promotes different kinds of metamorphosis at these cities. Among the negative impacts of this process, the disordered urban expansion of some cities, where the demographic growth has been explosive, can be detached, expanding their peripheries in precarious conditions, enlarging the historical socio-spatial inequalities and creating other new disparities. Looking for a better comprehension of the urbanization phenomena and the intra-urban changes placed at these agrarian productive regions, it is possible to identify various processes, despite the diverse economic, socio-environmental and cultural realities. Due to this predominantly excluding urban growth, some issues could be mentioned, such as: the uneven distribution of the benefits brought by the urbanization, the land use incompatibilities and territorial conflicts, all of them bringing about the appearance of environmental damages, which endanger the quality of habitability in different scales. By analyzing the production of residential areas - formal or informal ones, promoted by public or private sector, built with technical assistance or by self-help system - it is possible to understand, how predatory has been this kind of urban expansion at different locations of the city: central, intermediate, peripheral and in transitional urban-rural spaces. This means that the same urban problems of the metropolitan regions are happening at the cities of agribusiness. Some of them could be pointed up, such as: the lack of urban infra-structure and social facilities at the neighborhoods where poor people are settled; the appearance of squatter areas and illegal settlements of different patterns; squatting process placed at risky conditions, jeopardizing the urban environment; implementation of vertical condominium and gated cities, increasing the social gap among the local society, as well as the retaining of vacant urban spaces by land speculators.

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