



Transforming the Region, Transforming the City: Three Brazilian Studies of the 1950s

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The 1950s can be considered the moment of greatest belief in regional planning and in public control of urban environment in Brazil. It is a time of optimism and modernization, expressed, for example, in the construction of Brasilia.

This paper focuses on three studies conducted by Brazilian and foreign planners - "Guidelines for a regional plan for Recife"(1951), "Basic elements for the regional planning in São Paulo" (1954) and "Needs and possibilities of the State of São Paulo" (1954), which deal with different territorial scales and reveal the nineteen fifties as a defining moment in Brazilian planning history.

The association of planning to development strategies and the redemption of the social perspective of planning in Brazil are designed in these studies, as a product of an amalgam of ideas present in the RPAA - Regional Planning American Association group, mainly those mobilized in the Tennessee Valley Authority project, in the English Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 and in the French Economie and Humanisme movement.

Besides the Brazilian political-institutional context and the importance that regional planning takes in the post-war period, the interest in Latin America is pointed as the main factor that promotes the link between Economie et Humanisme's social Catholicism based on scientific principles and United States' policy to strengthen economic relations with underdeveloped countries.

KEY WORDS: Regional planning, metropolitan areas, Brazil, 1950s.