



Brazil and its Immigration Policies

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Brazil, since its origins, can be considered a country that has received many immigrants. In Sao Paulo, the most relevant Brazilian megacity (across its approximated 450 years of existence), it has been noticed that immigrants' presence, from distinguished ethnical groups, is a constancy which has been taking place since the end of 19th Century up to the current moment, not only due to internal conflicts and bad living conditions in their respective country of origin, like in the past, but also in response to the latest globalization process. One must also consider that recent theories, related to such a theme, are becoming more and more complex, and they can no longer be explained by some traditional conditioners, like attraction or repulsion (Arango, 2000; Green, 2002). Nowadays, some studies about migration processes have privileged the existence of social networks, taken as a stronger fact for permanent migration. Rea & Triper, for instance, say that wherever immigrants are already established, new migration groups will come in the future.

Our case study, here presented, is about a central neighborhood in Sao Paulo (Bom Retiro), that has attracted many immigrants since the end of 19th Century, such as Italians, Jewish Europeans, Greeks, and more recently, in the 21st Century, Koreans and Bolivians, particularly because of its favorable location. Our main objective in this paper is, therefore, to analyze the migration policies adopted by the Brazilian Government since the end of the Second World War which has resulted in successive amnesty policies towards immigrants, as well as some of their respective consequences.

KEY WORDS: Immigration policies, globalization procces, social networks, amnesty policies.