



Travelling Ideas: British Town & Country Planning and the Transformation of Brazilian Tropical Hinterlands

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In the early twentieth century, coffee growing, migration, new urban settlements and railway lines were radically transforming the natural landscape of underdeveloped Brazilian tropical hinterlands into a somewhat urbanized setting. Within this vast transformation process, a private British land-speculation initiative developed the northern region of Paraná State. However, in contrast to other developing regions, a systematic and comprehensive colonization process could be noticed within the foreign investor's territory, as a deliberate urbanization policy was being applied, and the cluster of the first new towns immediately rendered a peculiar and notable planning standard. Eventually, more than sixty new towns were planted according to this scheme.

Ideas travel, like people, commodities and money. Circulating around the world, British planning ideas were also transferred to Northern Paraná State, especially those relating to town and country planning. Interestingly, the British enterprise in Northern Paraná coincided with the development and consolidation of the theory, ideology, legislation and professional skills of town planning in Britain. Thus, Howard's regional concept of the social cities and its later transformation into London satellite towns, as well as Parker and Unwin's original features of the garden city layout can be noticed. This article seeks to shed light on the mechanisms of the diffusion of British town and country planning ideas in Northern Paraná State, as well as the extent to which ideas and practices were changed in the diffusion process.

KEY WORDS: Social city, garden city, satellite towns.