

# Hydroelectric dams in the Amazon region: The Belo Monte study case

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## INTRODUCTION

The **territorial appropriation** of the Amazon region through the construction of hydroelectric dams is a phenomenon that has been going on for a long time, leading to **environmental and social consequences** for the land and people from the place.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i) Which are the implications of **Lula da Silva's domestic policy** in the **Arara Tribe**, in the realms of environmental and sociological dimensions?
- ii) How did the construction of the **Belo Monte Hydroelectric Dam** influence the **Arara tribe**?

## METHODOLOGY

The method chosen in this document has its origin in the concept of **development** as an area of study and how it is used as a discursive tool to **promote economic growth** in peripheral countries.

Within this framework, developmentalism encompasses the causes, the first debates and the execution of the construction of hydroelectric dams in the Amazon region; and when it comes to the Belo Monte project, neo-developmentalism is the one implemented.

**First phase.** Historical and economical contextualization of developmentalism in Brazil. Qualitative analysis:

- Analysis of the elements belonging to neo-developmentalism in a speech of Lula da Silva via the theoretical approach of various authors.
- Verification of the usage of development as a strategic concept from the paper carried out by de Oliveira Vicentini and de Albuquerque.

## RESULTS

**First phase.** Historical and economical contextualization of developmentalism in Brazil:

The **domestic policy** during Lula da Silva's second presidential term was based on **neo-developmental principles**.

**Second phase.** Empirical analysis of the consequences of the implementation of Belo Monte. The following conditions for the Operational License to be obtained **weren't complied**:

- i) Complete the homologation process and development of a proposal for attending to school education for the population of the *Terra Indígena Cachoeira Seca*.
- ii) There was a lack of environmental monitoring resulting in a rise of deforestation, mining, and hotspots.

## OBJECTIVES

Report the effects of infrastructure development in the Amazon region over indigenous tribes.

Link neo-developmentalism with the domestic policy followed by Lula de Silva in his second presidential term.

Categorize the usage of development as a strategy of change in Brazil by installing the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Dam.

It answers the first and second hypotheses:

- i) The domestic policy during Lula da Silva's second presidential term was based on neo-developmental principles.
- ii) The expansion process of infrastructure in the Pará region is a consequence of the pursuit for strategic development by the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

**Second phase.** Empirical analysis of the consequences of the implementation of Belo Monte:

- Delimitation and recognition of Indigenous Lands
- Deforestation
- Mining
- Hotspots
- Education for indigenous people

It answers the third hypothesis:

- iii) The construction of the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Dam has had negative environmental and social consequences for the "Terra Indígena Cachoeira Seca" and its inhabitants.

## CONCLUSIONS

The expansion of infrastructure in the Pará region can be regarded as a crucial initiative, given the historical context that positions it as a strategic area, exacerbated by recent issues such as the energy crisis in Brazil.

There was **mismanagement** in the involvement of the *Terras Indígenas* in the Belo Monte project.

The narrative centered on the idea that **progress implies advancement towards something better**, employs the term in a tangible manner, yielding adverse impacts on the lives of those affected by extensive development initiatives.

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