

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 da 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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