

ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF THE BRAZILIAN MUNICIPALITIES

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PLANEJADA E ORIENTADA

por

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BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

ENCYCLOPÆDIA
OF THE
BRAZILIAN MUNICIPALITIES

OFF-PRINT OF INTRODUCTION

1958

INSTITUTO BRASILEIRO DE GEOGRAFIA E ESTATÍSTICA

ENCICLOPÉDIA
DOS
MUNICÍPIOS BRASILEIROS

SEPARATA DA INTRODUÇÃO

1958

Brazil, the greatest country in Latin American in size as well as in economic development, was in need of elaborating a comprehensive study of her geography and of the intimacy of her political cells, her municipalities.

Therefore, she proceeded to carry out through the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics a 40 volume work, in this format, which is to show in detail the composition of her social, political and economic structure.

That is the aim of the "Encyclopædia of the Brazilian Municipalities", of the best publications of its kind in the world. The "Encyclopædia" is divided into three parts: the first, containing a survey of Brazilian geography (in 13 volumes), and the second, presenting statistical data for 2 468 municipalities in dictionary form (throughout 23 volumes). The remaining volumes contain conclusions and geographic maps. A reliable work for its quality, it also has a good graphic presentation.

In this off-print, we reproduce the Introduction to the "Encyclopaedia" written by Professors Pedro Calmon, Delgado de Carvalho and Jurandyr Pires, in which a general survey of Brazilian history, geography and social-economic features give a glimpse of Brazil.

O Brasil, representando o maior país da América Latina, tanto pela sua extensão territorial, quanto pela pujança econômica, necessitava apresentar um estudo completo, de sua situação geográfica e da intimidade de suas células políticas, que são os municípios.

Assim, propôs-se a executar, pelo Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, uma obra, em 40 volumes, neste formato, com cerca de 600 páginas em cada, a qual fotografasse, em detalhes, toda a trama de sua estruturação social, política e econômica.

Está assim editando uma obra com esse objetivo, publicação das mais completas do gênero no mundo, que é a Enciclopédia dos Municípios Brasileiros. Ela se compõe de três partes fundamentais: uma, com o estudo da Geografia do Brasil, em 13 volumes, outra, em 23 volumes, colecionando verbetes municipais com dados estatísticos, história e informações peculiares dos 2 468 municípios brasileiros; e, finalmente, a última, ocupando os restantes volumes, contém as conclusões e mapas. É um trabalho de fôlego; muito bem cuidado, tanto nas informações que apresenta, quanto na própria consecução gráfica que lhe ilustra o conteúdo.

Divulgamos, nesta separata, apenas, a Introdução da Enciclopédia, escrita pelos Professores Pedro Calmon, Delgado de Carvalho e Jurandyr Pires, para que se tenha uma idéia panorâmica do Brasil na sua História, na sua Geografia e nos seus aspectos Sócio-Econômicos.

INTRODUCTION

HISTORICAL

by

Pedro Calmon

Rector of the University of Brazil; Professor of Civilization History in the Historical Museum. Cathedra in the Faculty of Laws, University of Brazil. Cathedra in Pedro Segundo College. Ex-Minister of Education Honorary Professor in School of Philosophy, Bahia. Cathedra in the Catholic Faculty of Laws. Doctor Honoris Causa University of Coimbra. Honorary Professor of the Universities of San Marcos in Lima and Mexico. Member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters. Benemerit Member of the Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute. Member of the Geographic Society of Rio de Janeiro, of the Historic Institutes of Bahia, São Paulo, Pernambuco, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Sergipe, Ceará; of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, of the Spanish Academy of History, of the Spanish Royal Academy, of the Society of Geography of Lima. Correspondent Member of the National Academy of Argentine History, of the Dominican Academy, of the Colombian Academy, of the Bolivian Academy of History, of the Portuguese Academy of History, of the Board of History and Numismatics of Argentina, of the Chilean Society of History and Geography and Honorary Member of the School of Laws, Chile, etc...

GEOGRAPHICAL

by

Delgado de Carvalho

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SOCIAL-ECONOMICAL

by

Jurandyr Pires Ferreira

Professor Emeritus; Cathedra on Sea Ports and Interior Navigation — School of Engineering, Juiz de Fora. Cathedra on Civil Construction, Architecture and Urbanistics — National School of Engineering, University of Brazil. Cathedra on Politic Economy — Faculty of Economy, Rio de Janeiro. Ex-Professor of the National Engineering School on General Hygiene, Industrial Hygiene and of Buildings — Sanitation and Planning of Cities Applied Mechanics and Thermodynamic. In the Engineering School of Juiz de Fora: on Hydraulics, Water Supply and Drainage; of Construction Materials Experimental gauging of Resistance; General Constructions Methods; Technology of Elementary Professions; Topography and Land Legislation; Resistance of Materials Graphostatics and Stability of Constructions. In the Faculty of Economy of Rio de Janeiro: Science of Administration and in the Faculty of Economic Sciences of Rio de Janeiro: Political Economy. Ex-Federal Deputy and Constituent. Ex-Director of the Central do Brasil Railroad; Benemerit Citizen of Juiz de Fora and Honorary Citizen of Teresopolis; President of the Organizing Commission of the XVIII International Congress of Geography, etc...

INTRODUÇÃO

HISTÓRICA

por

Pedro Calmon

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GEOGRÁFICA

por

Delgado de Carvalho

Prof. Catedrático de História Contemporânea da F.N.F. — Universidade do Brasil; Prof. de História Diplomática do Instituto Rio Branco; Ex-prof. de Geografia do Brasil da F.N.F. — U. do Brasil; Prof. Catedrático de Sociologia do Instituto de Educação; Autor de vários livros didáticos de Geografia e História como: “Geografia do Brasil” (1913), “Brésil Meridional”, “Météorologie du Brésil”, “História Antiga para professores”, publicada pelo INEP-1956. Vários artigos para a “Revista Brasileira de Geografia” e “Boletim Geográfico”; Bacharel pela Escola de Ciências Políticas de Paris; Representante do Ministério da Educação no Diretório Central do Conselho Nacional de Geografia; Presidente do Seminário sobre Geografia realizado em Montreal em 1950. Membro das seguintes sociedades de Geografia: Associação dos Geógrafos Brasileiros, Sociedade Brasileira de Geografia, Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro, Medalha de Ouro da National Geographical Society. Membro do Instituto Pan-Americano de Geografia e História, Presidente do Comité de Didática da Geografia da Comissão de Geografia do referido Instituto. Membro da União Geográfica Internacional, etc...

SÓCIO-ECONÔMICA

por

Jurandyr Pires

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HISTORICAL APPRECIATION
APRECIACÃO HISTÓRICA

HERE is an unbending logic in the discovery and colonization of Brazil. It is the Portuguese expansion right after the political unification, the social sedimentation, the courageous claim of independence followed by the cultural affirmation of the literary language a fitting splendor of that hard conquest. The facts pile themselves up in the form of a vertebrate, conscious evolution from the moment that was completed, with the agglutination of the most extravagant forces in conflict, in the lean area of the Empire, the unity of the People.

The names suggested the landing of those races, once the belligerent reconciled: **PORTO**, gaule's port, a foz do Douro, immemorial converging point of navigation gaul-celt, whose routes should continue northward to the Hellenic route of Ulises, remembered by Lisboa, Olissipo, a city that Homer forgot. . . In order to have an idea of the human waves that swept the region in indeterminate periods, celts, phoenitians, carthaginenses, greeks, romans, vandals, suaves, godos, arabs, franks. . . What do we know? — suffice the bizarre toponymy so many times untranslatable of those places of venerable tradition. The very name Hispania (Span) is phoenitian (and Cartagena, new Cartago). Fight, in celt, strength occurs in Conimbrica, Brigantium. . . Castros are Latin, Andalucía is Vandalusia. The genitive, Vimarani or Guimarães, Visigothic. Arabes, Algarb (west), Rabida (cloister-fortress) Almada (mine). . . The descendants of the blond conquerors of the North and of the brown invasors of the South, of the barbarians pushed away Moors and of these harassed by the Christians that were the ones separated from the Leonnais subjugation the **PORTUCALENSE** county led by the proclaimed King, they formed the Municipality, the patriotic hords, those candid spirits, lyric, warring and corteous of the minstrels in whose frangrance burst — wild flower that bloomed from the ruins of imperial latinity — the familiar language of the Cronicles, the musical language of the trovadors, the political language of the Ordinations. Containing the neighbors of the land boundaries and at the loss of the Saracen, widening toward Alentejo the national territory, the people enlivened the sober qualities that shine in the warring Princes, farmers, poets, magistrates, knights, the greatest of them John I, founder of the Aviz dynasty, and John II strong champion and consolidator of the monarchic

HÁ uma lógica inflexível no descobrimento e na colonização do Brasil. É a expansão portuguesa em seguida à unificação política, à sedimentação social, à brava reivindicação da independência, seguida da afirmação cultural da Língua literária — esplendor oportuno dêsse difícil triunfo. Escalonam-se os fatos em forma de uma evolução vertebrada e consciente, desde que se completou, com a aglutinação das mais disparatadas forças em conflito, na área exígua do reino — a unidade do Povo.

Já o nome sugeria o desembarque daquelas raças, conciliadas os beligerantes: Pôrto, pôrto de galêses, a foz do Douro, convergência imemorial de navegações galo-celtas, cujos itinerários deviam continuar ao norte a rota helênica de Ulisses, lembrada por Lisboa, Olissipo, cidade que Homero esqueceu. . . Para se ter uma idéia das ondas humanas que varreram a região em períodos indeterminados, celtíberos, fenícios, cartaginêses, gregos, romanos, vândalos, suevos, godos, árabes, francos, . . . — que sabemos nós? — bastaria a toponímia bizarra, tantas vezes intraduzível, dêsses lugares de venerável tradição. O próprio nome de Hispânia (Span) é fenício (e Cartagena, nova Cartago). Briga, em celta, fortaleza, ocorre em Conimbrica, Brigantium. . . Castros são latinos. Andaluzia é Vandalusia. O genitivo, Vimarani ou Guimarães, visigôdo. Árabes, Algarb (o poente), Rábida (mosteiro forte) Almada (mina) . . . Foram os descendentes dos conquistadores loiros do norte e dos invasores trigueiros do sul, dos bárbaros desalojados pelos mouros e dêstes recalcados pelos cristãos, que apartaram da sujeição leonesa o condado portugalense; acaudilhados pelo rei aclamado, formaram o município, as hostes patrióticas, êsse espírito cândido, lírico, batalhante e cortês dos cancioneiros, em cujas fragâncias eclodiu — flor ágreste que brotou das ruínas da imperial latinidade — a língua familiar das Crônicas, a língua musical dos trovadores, a língua política das Ordenações. Contendo os vizinhos da fronteira terrestre e à custa dos sarracenos, ampliando para o Alentejo o território nacional, retemperou o povo as qualidades sóbrias que reluzem nos príncipes guerreiros, lavradores, poetas, magistrados, paladinos, os maiores dêles D. João I, fundador da dinastia de Aviz, e D. João II, con-

order. The independence now tranquil after Aljubarrota, those knights could undertake, lance in Africa, the conquest of Ceuta; and on appearing in the shore scenery of Lagos the Infant D. Henrique, the soul of the people was permeated by maritime ideals. A massive emigration in the process of formation, with the down slide to the ports filled with "caravelas", rafts, canoes and galeras, the adventurous young men who formed the crew; and the adventures to discover the isles to the West — en route in that Ocean never before navigated — and the Black Continent down Cape Não (for the Infant Cape Yes of all the enterprises) took place, in accordance with a well studied program of missionary expansion. On the one hand the agricultural exploitation of wood brought up the colonial type of tropical farming (here is the dawn of the sugar era); and on the other, the trafic to Guiana brought the slave — when in Europe were stifled the last remains of pagan captivity — for the hard work of the field. The sailing of Vasco da Gama in search of India gives to Don Manuel the Happy the key to Oriental economy. In the second trip in search of the Industanic rich — Cabral found the supposed Isle, marginal to the chart afro-asiatic, non existing in the previous carthography, without signals in the maps of that period, uncertainty or enigma that Ptolomeu, Estrabon, Pomponio Mela, Toscanelli and Colombos ignored — in this Southern waters that were supposed to separate cafres and Chinese.

It is right there where the geographic novelty Brazilian comes in in the events of the Universe, exactly on the hour of the great changes that we call, more naisance than renaissance in the humanistic sense, the Century of the Discoveries. Change of the State that knocked the resistant shield (ambitious principles of Machiavelli); moral change with the neo-paganism, reform, counter-reform (between the Pontificate of Pio X and the Council of Trento); economic change with the bourgeois primate with the Flamish and German squares, the first capitalistic associations for transoceanic speculation; social change with the Romanized institutions peculiar to concentration of authority; change in attitudes, customs, objective and philosophyc conceptions of the Orbs, ethics and aesthethics, intimate and formal, symbolic and explosive... In that high point of History rises South America as a vast area of experience that lacked — on this side of the Atlantic — attractive richness and ornamental cultures. In Brazil there were forests not yet dry from the Deluge; the indians ate the lean flour; they lived as half-nomands in encapments with huts of palms and adobe; they adorned themselves with feathers and would fight with bow and arrow like the archers of the Iliad; in the shade of the woods, sunk in their florid paradise, which was the purgatory of the strangers, they would give to Pero Vaz de Caminha, to Vespucio, to Pigafetta, to Pero Lopes de Souza the melancholy impression that happiness fled from civilization to jump to the forest, with the insects and the trees... That vindictive illussion inspired to Thomas More, in his Utopia, the first dialectic deformation of the landscape. Without the coveted metals, nor the pepper, nor the spice, nor the ivory, the Brazil of the brazil-wood and of the anthrophophagous farmers would hardly be a habitable and profitable province. It would lack interest; it would lack probable importance and perspective. Precisely because it was a land unprofitable away from the route of navigation to India and with climates unknown to civilization, its profitability constituted a rosary of dramatic successes.

It started with the excursions that unveiled relief of the shores that unfold, sandy and flat in the North, carved and steep to the South, from Cape San Roque to the Isle of Sta. Catarina; and continued in the catechistic of the gentry, in the extraction of wood, in the plantation of sugar cane, in the division of the Capitánías, in the refineries that preceded the villages, in the villages, in the installation of Government as a Municipality, the church, the peaching of the priests, the disarmed convivence. The external values and the indian utensils merge there in a mixture of techniques and products which, fifty years after the discovery, made Olinda, Bahia, San Vicente unmistakable concentrations of luso-americans. From Madeira came the sugar-cane and the industry that would reduce it to sugar. From Angola, from the Guiana, from St. Tomé, came hordes of slaves to do that hard work. Cattle came from Cape Verde; from the metropolis came the poor settlers for rearing that cattle — and to plant the sugar-cane, and erects the mill, and build the chapel, and growing a family that represents the pacific conquest, based in the principle of the patriarch a la Portugueze. With him comes the missionary, who demands the liberty of the Indian, the merchant, the personnel for the Crown, and on board the ships the tools, the art, the trivial, the superflous. . . . It is not a culture to break abruptly the old customs, but a culture transplanted in the sails of the ships receiving the new name of Nova Lusitania, as elsewhere Nueva España, or New England or France Antartique. . . . It corresponds to a Europe that literally transfers itself putting inside the trunk of the immigrant the last remains of his opulence; but to absorb in America the experience of the indians to whom the africans added their vitality and the resignation of his somber heritage.

The colonization is inventive and defensive. Competition (french corsairs, the attempts of France Antartique and of France Equinociale and the Dutch invasions) compelled Portugal to do for herself what was possible and what was impossible. But it could only keep it with the prosperity of the sugar mills, the urban condensation and the extensive and decided occupation of the land. To solve these problems of adaptation of the European to the new land soil are, undoubtedly the most admirable aspects of his ultramarine adventure: because for the first time he gains a wide experience (deals with New Guinea, with India, with the islands, sugar from Madeira and the black slavery), in order to create at once, from the transplantation of the agriculture to heavy exportations, the market with its own way of life, abundant, patriarchal, colorful with the originalities of the land, friendly, christian, ready to teach and nationalize. Above all — nationalisation: One would understand better this evolution, Nova Lusitania of the future, from a private a “Capitanía” belonging to the Reign, from province to Country and to State, in the civil developement of literature, among the optimistic prophecies of Bento Teixeira ad Frei Vicente do Salvador and the discriminatory pride of Manuel Botelho de Oliveira (o paraíso botânico) (botanical paradise), of Rocha Pitta (“A America Portuguesa”) (The Portuguese America), of Loreto Couto (“Desagravos e Glórias”), with the Indian Complement full of national essence — of the Caramuru and the Uruguay, of the miners Durão e Gama. In the slow elaboration of that separatism, whose pamphletary profile jumps from the improvisations of Gregorio de Matos, — worked synchronically the impulsive forces of the ambient and the tribulations of the metropolis.

The idea that Brazil would supply (and eventually substitute) the kingdom comes up again in the XVI Century, when the commerce in the Orient declines; it becomes a true fact when the Flemish try to take it. In 1640 there remains no doubt. The European wars are particularly beneficial to the colony. If the crisis heightens over there, the hopes for recuperation increase here. The boundary may be in danger; there is the Ocean for the provisions, for the replenishments, for the help and even for the transmigration. The letters of the Priest Antonio Vieira show the shrewd interest that John IV attached to the restoration of the strongholds in the hands of the Dutch: it was matter of life or death for the Monarchy. We know by the same confidences that in case of misfortune in Alentejo, if the Spaniards marched to Lisboa, the King would move to Brazil. As Regent Prince John did in 1807. Those feelings served as models — the vast domains were not a secondary possession, but, providentially, the very effigy of Portugal to the west for the political acts that divided it into interdependent governments, that gave them administration, the hierarchy in the judiciary, cathedrals with their Bishops, military organization, the belt of fortresses dotting with the monumental stone the unsecure limits; the structure and the spirit of a country that is being civilized. In the (systematic reaction of the XVIII Century) the legislation, very restricted, applied to Brazil, is almost of no importance: it suffices to consider the constructiveness that was put into effect in order to impose the authority, the separation of it from the restraint of territorial feuds, to attribute to it the public responsibilities of Government, to subdue the remaining barbarism to civil order, of the Municipal Chambers, of the “ouvidores”, de “meirinhos” and captains of ordnances, to associate to that appeacement the missionary Church so that the forces of the rural anarchy would not prosper in the shadow of such institutions.

Portugal had the foresight of the unity of the land; its colonial processes welded the indissoluble links. It is true, in that interminable process to maintain the unity of Brazil acted spontaneous and vigorous. The primary element of national formation that had the people for their land, with a clear conscience, a firm individuality, the teachings of the Jesuites so they could read and write and their power of amalgamation to form an Empire.

In the beginning Portuguese and Indians (Tupi) fight. The first populations (São Paulo, Maranhão and Pará) are bilingual nuclei in which, indoors, prevailed the home language of the Indian, and on the street, the market, the port, that of the white, mixed unwillingly into a lojargon to the gabble of the oafish negroes, to that of the “tapuias” domesticated and illiterate mestizos. But it all ended by one yielding to the other. Catarina Alvares, wife of Caramuru lived all her life without learning the language of the husband. Half a century later the priests complained in Bahia of the decadence of Tupi, written in grammar by Anchieta, to the point of losing its tradition. It is a dialect that follows the hordes of indians in their flight back to the forests; recedes from the shores to the plateau and leaves in the trail the dust of geographical names, symbolic traces of their peregrination. Mamelucos, Paulistas and bandeirantes, leading troops of caboclos would converse, now in Portuguese, now in Tupi. With them disappear the tardy fidelity to the nomad genius of the primitive races: and falling in the cataract of the cult language all the indian terms that define things and utensils,

GEOGRAPHICAL PICTURE
VISÃO GEOGRÁFICA

JN Sociology, Integration is the passing from a state socially diffused to a concentrated state, with the addition of matter, in a determined social system, followed by a stabilization of the conditions in a socialized complex body.

Now, Modern Geography does not escape to the analogy that imposes itself. When it performs its true mission to observe, describe, compare and explain, Geography is, for excellence, an integration.

It does not suffice to affirm that the physical milieu must be preliminarily studied and that the human milieu is in function of the first if the connection is not established between both milieus. In other words, Modern Geography tends to be "Integral Geography". The geographic ambients begin by a phase socially diffused, new elements add themselves and a situation is being stabilized. The geographic panorama is then the final integration.

On this point of view the Geography of Brazil should be studied, once all the elements are known and has organized the schemes of their different psysic-humane ambients. This is the object of the present publication that Professor Jurandyr Pires Ferreira, President of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics decided to organize.

The necessity for such an integration is pointed out by Preston James when he states: "The study of the cultural characteristics of a population must not be abandoned to the anthropologists. Right there, as usual, the point of view of geography is necessary. So much so that such studies present results in terms of the modern concepts of geography. The concept that, for many geographers, it substitutes that of the mesological determinism, adds significance to the fact that physic and biotic conditions of a milieu are the results of the attitudes, objectives of the technical aptitudes of the population. The fact that it defines cultural significative categories and tries to find relations ship between them and the geographic phenomena, it offers oportunities to present new contributions to the basic theory of geography". (Preston James — American Geography — page 119).

EM Sociologia, a Integração é a passagem de um estado socialmente difuso a um estado concentrado, com acréscimo de matéria, num determinado sistema social, seguido de uma estabilização das condições num corpo socializado complexo.

Ora, não escapa a Geografia Moderna à analogia que se impõe. Quando desempenha a sua verdadeira missão de observar, descrever, comparar e explicar, a Geografia é, por excelência, uma integração.

Não é suficiente afirmar que o meio físico deve ser preliminarmente estudado e que o meio humano está em função do primeiro, se não é estabelecida a ligação entre os dois ambientes. Em outras palavras, a Geografia Moderna tende a ser “Geografia integral”. Os ambientes geográficos começam por uma fase socialmente difusa, novos elementos vão se acrescentando e vai se estabilizando uma situação. A paisagem geográfica é pois a integração final.

É sob êste ponto de vista que deveria ser estudada a Geografia do Brasil, quando, já conhecidos os seus elementos componentes, dispõe de quadros representativos dos seus diferentes ambientes físico-humanos. É êste o objeto da presente publicação, que, em boa hora, o Professor Jurandyr Pires Ferreira, presidente do Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, resolveu organizar.

A necessidade de semelhante integração é salientada por Preston James quando declara: “O estudo das características culturais de uma população não deve ser abandonado aos antropólogos. Aí, como sempre, é necessário o ponto de vista geográfico. Tanto mais que tais estudos apresentam resultados em termos dos modernos conceitos de geografia. O conceito que, para muitos geógrafos, substitui o do determinismo mesológico, salienta o fato significativo das condições físicas e bióticas de um meio serem função das atitudes, dos objetivos, das aptidões técnicas da população. São estas as características culturais. O fato de definir categorias culturais significativas e de procurar relações entre elas e os fenômenos geográficos oferece oportunidades de apresentar novas contribuições à teoria básica de geografia” (Preston James — *American Geography* — pág. 119).

SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PANORAMA
PANORAMA SOCIAL-ECONÔMICO

THE nuclear composition of the States, developing itself by the political emancipation from the comunas, represented without doubt, an historical factor in the creation of civilization.

The opening of the comunas in the XII Century marked the ideal of liberty in the shadow of the cultural developement as well as the economic and politic of that integrant part of the nationality. Amongst us, the municipalist movement has deep roots in History, and its evolution is being developed together with our wishes for freedom. The Constitution of 1946 promoted the economic elevation of the Municipalities besides opening the possibility of the birth of new comunas.

There must have been a little exaggeration in the enthusiasm of that change in the political structure that brought an amplification in a way too rapid of the number of Municipalities to a disorder in the constitution of the economic elements that developed in the Brazilian hinterland this, having in view the rapid creation of new comunas, pushed by the natural trend of the aspiration for political emancipation.

It is evident that the administrative de-centralization within the political unity of a Nation is the model that is looked for and takes objectiveness in the development of the elemental unities in the formation of the country.

But it so happens that Brazil in its large territorial extension and in the difficulties it finds itself kept ignored from the mass of the people the life of the celular elements of its political body. Once in a while partial publications focalized regional panoramas that in the meantime would go amiss in the absence of appropriate comparison factors in the complexity of our economical and political tissue.

In truth, far from that conceited concept that rocked the romanticism of our ancestors, in Brazil, Nature was not bountiful, but on the contrary, the ramparts of the Serra do Mar hindered the penetration to the hinterland; the climate, on the other hand, stigmatized its destiny that may have outbursts of progress but only in the inhuman civilization on the basis of slavery. Meanwhile, just as soon as the convulsion resulting from the abolition of slavery that shook the very foundation of the economy of

A COMPOSIÇÃO nuclear dos Estados, desenvolvendo-se pela emancipação política das comunas, representou, sem dúvida, um fator histórico na criação da civilização.

A abertura das comunas no Século XII marcou o ideal de liberdade à sombra do desenvolvimento cultural, econômico e político dessa parte integrante da nacionalidade. Entre nós, o movimento municipalista tem raízes profundas na história e, realmente, se vem desenvolvendo paralelamente a marcha de nossas aspirações libertárias.

A Constituição de 1946 promoveu a elevação econômica dos municípios, além de abrir facilidades à cissiparidade comunal.

Talvez um pouco de exagêro no entusiasmo dessa mutação de estrutura política levasse a uma ampliação de certo modo rápida do número de municípios e a uma desordem na constituição dos elementos econômicos que se desenvolvem pelo interior do Brasil. Isto, tendo em vista a rapidez com que se vêm criando novas comunas, impelidas pela tendência natural da procura de uma emancipação política.

É evidente que a descentralização administrativa dentro da unidade política de uma nação é o modelo que se procura e que se objetiva nesse desdobramento das unidades elementares na formação do país.

Acontece, entretanto, que o Brasil, na sua larga extensão territorial e nas dificuldades em que se debate, vinha mantendo ignorada do grande público a vida dos elementos celulares de seu organismo político. Vez por outra, publicações parciais focalizavam panoramas regionais, que, entretanto, se perdiam pela falta dos valores de comparação, na complexidade de nosso tecido econômico e político.

Em verdade, longe daquele conceito ufanista que embalou o romantismo de nossos avós, no Brasil a natureza não foi dadivosa, mas, pelo contrário, as grimpas da Serra do Mar barraram-lhe a penetração do hinterland; o clima, por outro lado, estigmatizara o seu destino que pôde ter surtos de progresso mas na desumana civilização à base da escravidão. Entretanto logo que os abalos resultantes da abolição sacudiram os alicerces econômicos do país, houve, por assim dizer, um colapso na velha estrutura. Contudo, encaminhou-se o esforço do homem daí em diante para uma nova civilização de que nos

