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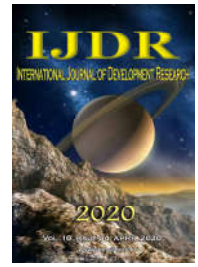
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FORMATION OF THE SEMIARID SPACE: A PERSPECTIVE OF THE PASTURE WAY OF LIFE BASED ON REGIONAL HISTORIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The Brazilian semi-arid region began to form its space, beginning in the 17th century, at least from the point of view of the effective use of land. Hence, the so-called grassland communities begin. This article aims to analyze the formation of the occupation of the Brazilian semi-arid space as an intuitive way of understanding the social practices of these communities. In this sense, the traditional way of life in the Sertão is observed; the occupation and common use of the territories, especially linked to agricultural activities in areas of collective use, with strong kinship links that contribute to the preservation of customs and cultural traditions. For that, the analysis considered the formation and occupation of the semi-arid from the regional historiography, using a bibliographic research. Classical authors such as: Abreu, (1999) Antonil, (1976) Andrade, (2005), among many others that make up the myriad of knowledge listed in this article. Thus, it was found that the pasture fund, in fact, constitutes an important area of the northeastern hinterland to understand the cultural hinterland of the studied area.

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INTRODUCTION

The process of occupation of lands located in the Brazilian semi-arid region is directly linked to the emergence of livelihoods of grassland communities. The Brazilian lands occupied by Portugal became property of the Portuguese Crown and originally public lands.

In Brazil, all lands were originally public, as they belong to the Portuguese nation, for the right of conquest. Then they passed to the Empire and the Republic, always as the domain of the State. The transfer of public lands to private individuals took place gradually through sesmarias and date concessions, purchase and sale, donation, exchange and legitimation of possessions. Hence the rule that all land without a private property title is in the public domain. (MEIRELES, 1995, p.455)

In the colonial period, with the implantation of the hereditary captaincy and sesmarias system, the process of interiorization began to occupy the semi-arid lands, which is crucial for the development of livestock, with the extensive cattle breeding, released in the open field and feeding only of the existing

species na caatinga, characteristic vegetation of the Brazilian semi-arid, of herbaceous, shrub and tree size. The communities of the São Francisco Valley originated from the colonial period, with the old corrals of Garcia D'Ávila, developing, in the areas next to them, the creation of small animals and subsistence cultivation, intended for the planting of beans, corn, sugar cane, cassava and cotton. The residents of these communities could hunt, fish and collect other foods, mainly fruits, contributing to the formation of an extractive society par excellence (CAR, 1985 *apud* MMA, 2004). The historical, legal factors and the climatic regime of the semi-arid, characterized by irregular rainfall, were decisive for the exploitation of the land to take place in a community, making peasants find in the caatinga an important forage reserve for the maintenance of the herd, as stated by Angela Garcez (1987, p. 34). The communities were formed with the occupation of the vacant lands of the Brazilian semi-arid and strengthening the features of the way of life of the Fundo de Pasto communities, Darcy Ribeiro (1995, p.340) asserts that:

It also conformed a particular type of population with its own subculture, the sertaneja, marked by its specialization in grazing, by its spatial dispersion and by characteristic features identifiable in the way of life, in the organization

of the family, in the structure of power, in clothing typical, in seasonal play, diet, cuisine, worldview and religiousness prone to messianism.

Thus, Fundo de Pasto Community can be understood as:

[...] a typically northeastern way of managing the semiarid. Groups, linked by ties of blood or compadrio, form small communities scattered throughout the caatinga. Each group has as main activity the creation of small animals (goat and sheep) and some mixed cattle. The animals are grazed on an extensive or loose basis. Pasture areas are not fenced, leaving animals free to fetch food and water over relatively long distances. Pasture areas are collective. Everyone uses them, but no one can take ownership of these areas of the water sources, each family keeps its own animals marked by ear cuts, and everyone watches over the development of the herd, the water and common facilities. (EHLE, 1997, 11)

Thus, the objective of this article is to understand the production of the Brazilian semi-arid space with the formation of Fundo de Pasto communities, based on historical elements observed since the period of colonization of Brazil.

Brazilian Semi-Arid Space: The Brazilian semi-arid region is delimited by the Northeast Development Authority - SOUTH, considering dominant semi-arid climatic conditions, especially rainfall. As a reflection of the climatic conditions, the rainfall regime is scarce, in its own, being insufficient to sustain large rivers that remain perennial in the long periods of absence of precipitation. The São Francisco River is an exception.

According to SUDENE (2020), the Brazilian semiarid comprises 1,262 municipalities, from the states of Maranhão, Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Due to its hydrological characteristics, which allow it to be sustained throughout the year, the São Francisco River acquires a special significance for the riverside populations and in this hinterland region (IBGE, 2020). Alagoas, Sergipe, Bahia and Minas Gerais, the following being used for their delimitation criteria: average annual rainfall of 800 mm or less, the aridity index of Thornthwaite, equal to or less than 0.50 and the daily percentage of water deficit equal to or greater than 60%, considering all days of the year (Figure 1).

The semi-arid region as a wide variety of landscapes, environments and plant formations. Among the plant formations in the semiarid region is the Caatinga, a predominant ecosystem, whose flora is composed of trees and shrubs characterized by rusticity, tolerance and adaptation to the climatic conditions of the region, in addition to being one of the Brazilian biomes most affected by human activities. Despite its biological importance and threats to integrity, about 5% of its area is protected in Federal Conservation Units, which allows the Caatinga to be classified as one of the least protected and most threatened Brazilian ecosystems (NATURE CONSERVANCYDO BRASIL, 2000, p. 09).

Bahian semi-arid space: The Semi-arid Region of Bahia was established from Federal Law No. 7,827, of September 27, 1989. Ordinance No. 89, of March 16, 2005, which was based on the results of the work of the Interministerial Group instituted by Ordinance No. 6, of 29 March 2004, from the Ministry of National Integration, entitled Final Report Interministerial Working Group for the Limitation Network of the Northeastern Semiarid and the Drought Polygon; this study indicates a total of 265 municipalities for the state of Bahia, not including the municipality of Barrocas dismembered from Serrinha and included by SEI in its publications due to its legal relevance (SEI, 2020). In 2017, the Northeast Development Superintendence, through its Deliberative Council, released two lists with updates from the region. Resolution No. 115, of November 23, 2017, published in the Federal Official Gazette of December 5, 2017, refers to the current regional conformation. Based on Resolution No. 115, of November 23, 2017, published in the Federal Official Gazette of December 5, 2017, which references the current conformation of the Semi-Arid Region, which now appears in the state of Bahia with 278 municipalities, with most of its territory, about 70% located in the semiarid and the coastal areas and the West region, comprises the remaining 30%. (SEI, 2020)

Occupation and Colonization of the Semiarid: The Portuguese crown in Brazil as a way of controlling Brazilian territory, implemented a property regime through hereditary captaincies, general governments and the sesmarias system, NEVES¹ (2001, p. 119-120):

The sesmarias regime extended to Brazil with the hereditary captaincies, instituted by D. João III, in 1534.



Figure 1. (IBGE, 2017)

¹Sesmarias - regional / local model of land division applied primarily in Portugal, with the objective of making better use of low-productivity land, aiming at food production. It derives from the regime of communal lands of the medieval era, called communalia, where the lands were plowed in the communities, divided according to the number of residents and drawn among them, in order to be cultivated.

Its concept continued the same of Portugal, with some adaptations, meaning conquered lands not economically occupied, donated by the donating captains and, more later, by governing captains, with later confirmation, for private exploitation, that is, available territory for colonization of third parties, with government consent. As for the noun *sesmeiro*, it came to mean donatory of *sesmaria*, unlike Portugal, where he called the agent of the public power, in charge of the division of land by this regime.

The *sesmarias* system implanted in Brazil, was not the same used in Portugal, needing modification for application in the colonization period.

Between each farm there was a league of land that remains unoccupied; in this league none of the adjoining buildings can build buildings or carry out any works. It serves only as a currency, a necessary measure where, due to the lack of appropriate materials, no fences or any other coverings are used. This avoids the incursions of cattle on neighboring farms and the confusion of herds. (PRADO JUNIOR, 2006, p.29).

With unique characteristics, the occupation and use of land located in the Brazilian semi-arid began with the colonization of Brazil, in response to the planters, to meet the expansion of cattle breeding, as Antonil (1976) reported, due to the existence immense portions of unoccupied land in the interior, coupled with the availability of countless natural pastures ideal for cattle breeding and its total destination, because it took advantage of leather, meat or even its use as a “draft animal”². According to Neves (2001), the *sesmarias* system was economically based on cattle ranching, due to the small amount of cattle per hectare, in addition to the control by the cowherd, being absent from daily contact the one who had received the right to enjoy that portion of land, thereby raising livestock in the caatinga areas, with no obstacle to the free movement of the herd, being raised free.

The speed with which the farms spread in the northeastern hinterland is explained, on the one hand, by the growing consumption of the coast where sugar production and population were actively developed; on the other, due to the low economic density and low productivity of the industry. But also because of the ease with which the farms were established: a house was erected, covered in general with straw - it is the leaves of a species of palm tree, the *carnauba* tree, very abundant, that are used -, made in rough corrals and cattle introduced (hundreds of heads), three leagues are occupied (area average of farms) and formed an establishment (PRADO JUNIOR, 2006, p.29)

At this time, they were born through various conflicts and territorial disputes with indigenous peoples and other occupants of the interior, two large manorial domains with great influence in Bahia. (Figure - 02)

As the hinterland of Bahia is so enlarged, as we have mentioned, almost all of it belongs to two of the main

families in the same city, that of Torre, and that of the late field master Antônio Guedes de Brito. Because the Tower House has two hundred and sixty leagues along the São Francisco River, above the right hand, going south, and going from the said river to the north it reaches eighty leagues. And the heirs of the field master Antônio Guedes have a hundred and sixty leagues from the Morro dos Chapéus to the birth of the Rio das Velhas (ANTONIL, 1976, p. 199).

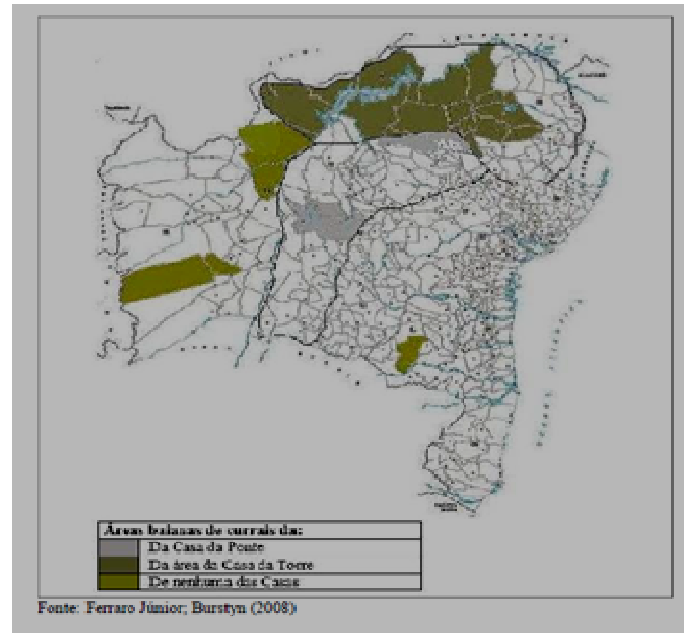


Figure 2.

These houses were Casa da Ponte, belonging to the Guedes de Brito family and Casa da Torre, belonging to the Garcia d'Ávila family, who consolidated their power through the *sesmarias* system, occupying what today corresponds to different municipalities in the semi-arid region. Bahian, presenting the figure of the *foreiro*³ important to understand the land structure and that remained even as the end of the *sesmarias*, with a direct relationship with the cowboys and the *sesmeiro*, allowing the same to remain in their domains, being allowed the creation of small animals owned by him and also by the cowboy, and may retain part of cattle herd in breeding time, receiving as payment through “luck or fourth”.

In these huge territories, sparsely populated and without authorities, it is difficult to maintain the necessary vigilance over slave workers”. The farm is run by an administrator, the cowboy; the owner, as a rule lord of many farms, is an absentee who ordinarily resides in the great centers of the coast (PRADO JUNIOR, 2006, p.30).

Marginal herds developed as a result of the spatial organization of the stately possessions, with areas appearing without direct control and use by *sesmeiros*, with each herd being within a distance of something around a league. The houses represented by the Guidedes de Brito and Garcia d'Ávila families agreed with each other, so that there would be no territorial disputes between the two domains, with the basic objective of developing a network of relations between you and the *foreiros*, which gave them power and status (SANTOS,

² Draft animal - an animal moving a vehicle (wagon, carriage, etc.) or an apparatus (such as a mill, for example). Today, it is little used, since, since the Industrial Revolution, animals were largely replaced in this function by machines.

³Foreiro - one that pays forum.

2010). The Crown Royal Letters reported numerous times on the desire to decrease the size of some sesmarias, encouraging greater productivity with demarcation, which were not considered by the great landowners, who had received more donations from sesmarias in the sertão, in return for the support, for example, the d'Ávila, in the decimation of indigenous peoples and in the period of the Dutch invasion, which has strengthened the power of Casa da Torre over the decades (SANTOS, 2010).

In the 19th century, internal problems led to changes in the colony, such as the loss of power in the Houses that represented the stability of the Portuguese empire in the interior of the colony, having in life to be the form of making the State present in the colonization process. The Empire of Casa da Torre, for example, begins to crumble as a result of the rise of new settlements linked to the extraction of diamonds and gold in Minas Gerais, the devaluation of the land turned to livestock in the Bahian semiarid, and problems in the parceling of the land with foreiros, tenants and tenants, who failed to contribute pecuniarily, with the family that represented the regional power and in 1852, with the death of Antônio Joaquim Pires de Carvalho and Albuquerque - Visconde da Torre, Casa da Torre fragmented, starting the formation of communities inserted in the latifúndios, protected by the organization of the productive system, having the territorial domain and the debts divided among some heirs.

The farms that resulted from this fragmentation - by inheritance, purchase, tenure or any other title - suffer the imprecision of the limits of the primitive domains of the two great Houses. The extensive character of livestock is another fluidity factor of these extremes. The so-called "loose cattle frontier" was never demarcated. And the lands passed, thus indefinite, at hands perhaps more experienced in agricultural treatments than in forensic practices. The legal procedures capable of ensuring the legitimacy of possession, in general, have never been fulfilled (GARCEZ, 1987, p. 30).

The titles of the possessions resulting from the sesmarias system brought inaccuracies in the delimitations, what is verified in the communities of Fundo de Pastoque had their land taken away as a result of an imprecise title, affirming without the necessary indications that a certain person has "two thousand contos de réis" in lands, being the basis for the formation of the latifúndium in the semiarid region, enabling the formation of grassland communities (GARCEZ, 1987). When the Land Law was implemented in 1850, the so-called "vacant lands" appeared, in a scenario that contained numerous large estates and small squatters. According to Marés (2003, p.23) in the post-colony national period, land ownership was characterized by the prevalence of the following arrangement:

- a) sesmarias granted before 1822 and fully confirmed;
- b) sesmarias that although they were granted before 1822, were not confirmed due to lack of occupation, demarcation or production;
- c) simple possession, recognized by the crown as long as the land was small and the occupant kept his address there;
- d) crown or local government lands; and
- e) lands without occupation, including all those not considered in the previous classes, even with someone living on them (indigenous people, escaped

slaves, free men, riverside populations, fishermen, caícaras, squatters, caboclos and other occupants).

The communities had a system of appropriating the land, while the State devised a way of implementing rules for regularizing the territory with the sesmarias system or with the Land Law of 1850, favoring conditions for the formation of common lands.

[...] the frontier of loose cattle forked into a creative economy mainly aimed at supplying the engenhos and which remains gathering its rubble in the domain of "progress" and a subsistence economy, developed on the margins of the latifúndium and in a way to them socially and politically subordinated. It is in this subsistence economy, which is always up to date, that the socio-environmental, political and legal conditions that give rise to the existence and re-signification of loose lands and the solitary articulation of uses and customs are inscribed (DIAMANTINO, 2007, p. 34).

Just as today the various forms of expansion of traditional communities are "invisible" to the State, so the land in common use was as invisible as it was for the sesmarias regime.

There was a time lapse without any regulation on land ownership or ownership, between the end of the colonial period that took place in 1822 and the Land Law of 1850, becoming known as a period of free possession in the absence of rules and blockades, which made the lands vacant with the Land Law and even with resistance from the communities until today, the Fundo de Pasto way of life, which had a larger dimension in the state of Bahia, dispersed a lot during the 20th century.

The low land pressure between 1800 and 1920 favored the consolidation of pastoralist communities, governed by customary law, in which the concept of ownership was equal to that of dominion (FERRARO JR; BURSZTYN, 2008, s / p).

After more than a century without questioning about large properties, between 1950 and 1960 there is social mobilization pointing out the need to carry out a comprehensive agrarian reform as a fundamental part of the structural transformations that should end traditional domination in the countryside, improve the distribution of income and give new impetus to the industrialization process by activating the internal market.

In the 1960s, the difficulties faced by the pasture fund communities intensified, since the military governments implemented a policy of favoring agricultural credits, with a growing appreciation of the region's lands, where occupants of the pasture areas had their lands invaded.

Pasture Funds came under enormous pressure from various agents. Due to the official proposal to modernize agriculture, aiming at the expansion of capital in the countryside. These voluminous credit resources favored and motivated land grabbing in the Fundo de Pasto areas throughout Bahia, putting at risk the social, cultural and economic system of these communities (SANTOS, 2010, p.04).

From the 1970s, as well, Ferraro Jr; Bursztyn (2010) arose five articulated axes of pressure on the pastoral communities in the Bahian hinterland: environmental pressure, due to the degradation of the caatinga; political pressure, with the creation of municipal laws requiring the fencing of areas (four-wire laws); land pressure, caused by land grabbing; economic pressure, due to the appreciation of land; and technical pressure, due to the proposals for modernizing agriculture and expanding livestock. In the 1980s, the "Projeto Sertanejo" and other programs of the government of Bahia emerged as support and financing processes for land acquisition and land grabbing, to representatives of the Fundo de Pasto communities and associated organizations, causing the vulnerability of local populations and its consequent deterritorialization also results from these government actions (OLIVEIRA; ROTHMAN, 2007).

Occupation of the urban-regional space in the municipality of paulo afonso: The region of the municipality of Paulo Afonso has its initial settlement in the 17th century, outlined by the presence of the cattle that went there in search of landing and refreshments to prepare for the long trips to the coast, being its name "Currais de Bois", given by its first inhabitants.

The formation of the Paulo Afonso region has a history linked to the practice of extensive breeding of goats, cattle, sheep and birds, linked to the small-scale cultivation of cassava, beans, corn, in addition to extracting species from native vegetation such as umbu, licuri and murici and consequently the formation of grassland communities.

Cattle were raised in areas where there was "wide fields, and always flowing water from rivers and lagoons, that is why the corrals on the part of Bahia are placed on the edge of the São Francisco River" [...] (ANTONIL, 1976, p .199).

On the farms in the region, there was also the cultivation of corn, beans and cassava and, from the end of the 18th century onwards, cotton, despite never having become a major producer, and it was necessary in the beginning of the 20th century to import other raw materials for textile manufacture, from Fabrica Pedra located in Delmiro Gouveia - Alagoas (Andrade, 2005). Livestock, in the first moment of the sugar exploration, was next to the mills, but, with time, it entered into the wild and, finally, through the hinterland. The impulse towards the northeastern interior was based on livestock, reaching the hinterland mainly in the tributary regions of the large sugar producing centers, Pernambuco and Bahia (Prado Jr., 1989). Livestock, in the first moment of the sugar exploration, was next to the mills, but, with time, it entered the wild and, finally, the hinterland, therefore the cattle breeding has always been an economic activity subsidiary to sugar cane (Andrade, 1973). Reinforcing a tendency to internalize cattle ranching, in 1701 the Crown prohibited the breeding of cattle in a range of 10 leagues from the coast, relating the occupation of the semiarid region to the entrance through the valleys to establish corrals. The Bahian corrals, at the beginning of the 18th century, extended along the right bank of the São Francisco and through the valleys of the rivers Velhas, das Rãs, Verde, Paramirim, Jacuípe, Itapicuru, Real, Vaza-Barris and Sergipe (Andrade, 1973). The Municipality of Paulo Afonso occupies a territorial area of 1,700.40 square kilometers, limited to the north, with the municipality of

Glória, from whom it dismembered in 1958; to the south, with the municipalities of Jeremoabo and Santa Brígida and the State of Sergipe; to the east, with the São Francisco River and the State of Alagoas; to the west, with the municipality of Rodelas. The seat of the Municipality is at an altitude of 243 meters and is 460 kilometers from Salvador, 480 kilometers from Recife, 380 kilometers from Maceió, 280 kilometers from Aracaju, with 101,757 inhabitants, 5,258 more than the 2000 census of 96,499 residents. Paulo Afonso is now among the eight new municipalities with more than 100 thousand inhabitants, according to the map (Figure 03). (IBGE, 2020).

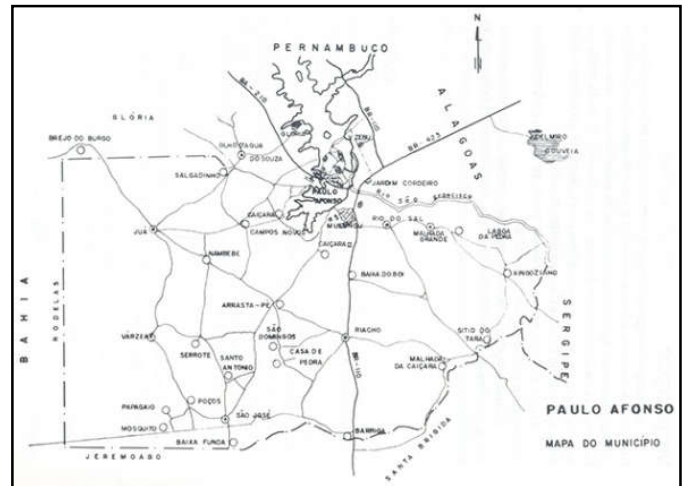


Figure 3. Folha Sertaneja Newspaper (2019)

The area of the municipality of Paulo Afonso is formed by plateaus and depressions, represented by crystalline soil and also trays elaborated in the sedimentary layers of the Tucano-Jatobá Basin, has a semi-arid BSh (Koppen) climate, with an average rainfall between 500 and 600 milliliters annually. With high average temperature around 30 degrees, reaching 40 degrees in the hottest periods (December / January). It has siliceous soil, almost without humus, poor in nitrogen and with regular content of potassium and calcium, the caatinga is the predominant vegetation in the region, in addition to low trees and shrubs, many of twisted branches, there are many species that store water in their stems and roots such as mandacaru cactus, facheiros, xique-xique, friar crowns, umbuzeiros and Croatian, which is very common in the region and also stores water, being the salvation of hunters and residents of the Raso Catarina region on many occasions conforme mapa (Figura 04). (IBGE, 2020). According to Rocha (1963), in 1725 in Brazil, during the period of the Hereditary Captaincies, the lands where there was a great waterfall of the São Francisco River were called Forquilha, Sumidouro or Cachoeira Grande and belonged to the Captaincy of Pernambuco having as donator Duarte Coelho, who donated these lands to the Portuguese Paulo Viveiros Afonso, which is why, since then, the waterfalls have been called Cachoeira de Paulo Afonso.

In the first days of October 1725, three sesmeiros were officially created in the region of the "big waterfall", in Alvará on the 3rd, Paulo de Viveiros Afonso was given an area of one league wide and three long, running through the Serra Branca and including the left margin of the "sink"; on the 6th, another Alvará granted a sesmaria of the same size, in the same region, to Silvestre da Silva Viveiros; and two days later, also for an Alvará, Francisco Pereira de Castro obtained the third sesmaria of equal

area, in the neighborhoods of Paulo Afonso and Silvestre Viveiros. (ROCHA, 1963, p. 86)

The Cachoeira de Paulo Afonso is registered in leagues 324 and 325, being visited on October 20, 1859 by D. Pedro II and a large entourage.



Figure 4. Paulo Afonso City Hall, 2020

In 1903, Ceará's Delmiro Augusto da Cruz Gouveia established himself in the region and decided to build a hydroelectric plant on the right bank of the São Francisco River, in Alagoas, next to the Paulo Afonso Waterfall and in 1913 the Usina Angiquinho was inaugurated (GALDINO, MASCARENHAS, 1995).

Delmiro Gouveia dreamed of taking the electricity generated in Angiquinho to the entire Northeast, but that was not possible at that time.

The precursor idea of Delmiro Gouveia opened up the prospects for hydro-energy development, taking advantage of the potential of the São Francisco River basin. Thus, in the 1920s, the Geological and Mineralogical Service of the Ministry of Agriculture carried out a preliminary study on the hydraulic potential of the river in the section between Juazeiro and Cachoeira de Paulo Afonso, reaching the conclusion that there was a possibility of implantation of large hydroelectric plants (ALVES DE SOUZA, 1955).

Until 1948, the entire region on the right bank of the São Francisco River, where the city of Paulo Afonso is today, was just a piece of the backwoods caatinga, with some scattered hovels and was called Forquilha. Close to the river, a few other houses formed the Tapera de Paulo Afonso, where today is the Centenary Quarter. Luiz Malta de Azevedo (2008), in his doctoral thesis, states that the process of settlement and occupation of the great Northeastern hinterland was decisive for the existence of rivers, as these functioned as natural paths for the exploration of the hinterlands in that region:

Thus, based on an economic and social base, founded on the exploitation of the hydroelectric potential of CHESF plants (PA-I, II, III and IV, Apolônio Sales, Luís Gonzaga and Xingó), the city of Paulo Afonso achieved, from the 40s of the last century to 2007, an important commercial and service provision function, whose area of influence

covers part of the States of Sergipe, Alagoas and Pernambuco, in addition to the northeastern portion of the state of Bahia (LUIZ MALTA DE AZEVEDO, 2008)

Capistrano de Abreu (1999, p. 65), reports the natural difficulties faced with the occupation of the hinterlands, emphasizing the importance of the São Francisco River affirms that: "in reality such is the importance of rivers in this part of our history that the flags must classify if not by the point from which they left, but by the rivers that bordered or sailed". Ferraro Jr; Bursztyn (2010), states that from the end of the 1970s, pastoralist communities were being prevented from raising sheep and goats, the basis of their economic and subsistence activity, due to the growing private appropriation of the land, supported by municipal laws of the same time, popularly called "law of the high foot" or "law of the four threads", favoring the occupation of land by large beef cattle ranchers, created in extensive regime, in detriment of the current occupation, in the regime of "goat" loose", characteristic of the Pasture Funds. The municipality of Paulo Afonso, enacted Municipal Law No. 406 of May 4, 1981, which imposed threats that were added to others faced by community goat farmers: (Figure - 05)

1st. The breeding of goats and sheep in the municipality must be in a fenced area and herds must be carefully guarded and monitored in order to avoid damage to other people's properties.

2nd Art. Farmers and ranchers are guaranteed the right to build fences for the protection of their crops or for the criterion of cattle with only 3 or 4 strands of barbed wire.

3rd. For non-compliance with the provisions of art. 1 of this Law, violators are obliged to pay the damages caused by their animals, in accordance with the Laws in force in the country.

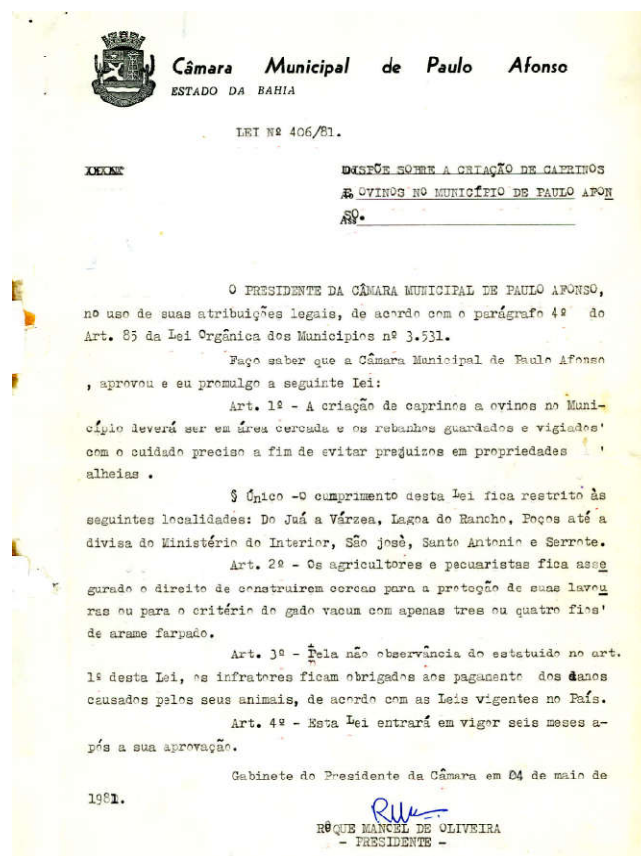


Figure 5. Paulo Afonso City Council (2020)

Resistance against this law was part of a struggle to continue the breeding of goats in the "loose goat" system, the end of which would compromise the social reproduction of communities. The prey rearing implies physical structure (capril) and dependence on feeding by feed produced in the caatinga or acquired in the market. The first Chesf Hydroelectric Plants were given the name Paulo Afonso and then the municipality that was born in 1958, in honor of Cachoeira de Paulo Afonso, which had received that name in 1725. However, according to Luiz Malta de Azevedo (2011) this process of production of social relations that presided over the organization of space in the region has undergone transformations, especially in the second half of the 20th century, with the development of hydroelectric projects and irrigated agriculture, whose impacts they are of great importance for understanding the organization of the regional space taken as a whole. In fact, it was only progressively that the function of energy production caused disruptions in this traditional spatial organization.

Conclusion

The process of space formation and land occupation in the Brazilian semiarid with unique characteristics began in the colonial period, with the implantation of the sesmarias system and hereditary captaincies by Portugal, to meet the expansion of cattle breeding. With the end of the sesmarias system, of the hereditary captaincies and the establishment of the Land Law of 1850, restricting access to land to the poor and immigrants, since it demanded the purchase of available public lands, initiating the structuring of the private property model used even today, being responsible for making the lands vacant, delineating the property on which these Fundo de Pasto communities are based. In the state of Bahia, the occupation of part of the semiarid lands is linked to the expansion of Fundo de Pasto communities, despite the existence of documents including land purchase titles, most of the areas of these communities do not have property titles, most of the conflicts. It is important to note that the characteristic vegetation of the Brazilian semi-arid, the caatinga, was decisive for the expansion of pasture communities during the colonial period, allowing the creation of free-range cattle in the open field, with their feeding exclusively from species, earbusting trees existing in the caatinga. In the same way, the occupation of the regional urban space of the municipality of Paulo Afonso started in the 17th century through the cattle that were passing through and needed rest and food to continue the trips that had as destination the coast. In addition to the existence in the region of farms in the region that also cultivated corn, beans and cassava and even cotton and the development of hydroelectric projects and irrigated agriculture in the second half of the 20th century. The Fundo de Pasto communities have specificities in their forms of expansion in the semiarid region, being studied by the human and social sciences and geography, and it is necessary to advance in exploratory studies with the aim of understanding and analyzing the formation process of the semiarid space, through its land use.

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