

ABSTRACT

CAMPOS, S. M. M. The Brazilian State and the process of space production in Acre. 2003. 256 f. Thesis (Doctor's degree) – School of Architecture and City Planning, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, 2004.

This thesis confirms the vital role of the Brazilian State in the whole historical process of occupation, incorporation, integration and consolidation of the State of Acre. The policies of the Brazilian State have guided the land occupation process in Acre from the mid-nineteenth century until today. Such policies have been oriented to land occupation, populational concentration and integration of Acre into the Brazilian space. These goals were based in geopolitical conceptions of land strategy, according to which Acre's strategic location in a strip of the Brazilian Amazon border, its scarce land occupation and lack of integration to the Brazilian space would threaten the defense of the country's territory and sovereignty. Thanks to policy implementation, in 2000 the local population was largely concentrated (66.4%) in cities and Acre was integrated to the rest of the country through highways. On the other hand, these policies consolidated the State institution as the key element of Acre's economic structure, accounting for 47.8% of its GDP, although 70% of its budget consists of on-lendings from the Brazilian government. Economic sustainability in the State of Acre by the Brazilian government reveals the Brazilian State's strategic conception of Acre. Even when the neoliberal ideological predominance promotes the State's dismantlement, in Acre's case it remains the core of all processes. This has led us to conclude that, despite differences in jurisdiction and form, the Brazilian State is the key driver in the constitution of the State of Acre.

Key words: Acre – space production, Acre – land occupation.