

Under the sign of modern cultivation: Imperial State and agriculture in the Amazon

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The dimensions taken by the agriculture in the Brazilian Amazon during the Empire, from the end of the 1830s, is the central object of analysis of this thesis. We seek, however, the understanding of this issue in the heterogeneity of interpretations, which allowed us to comprehend that agriculture went beyond the limits of an economic practice. Taking into consideration discussions in the press, official documents and pronouncements, we ended up with different and various interpretations; we built a proposition of analysis that look beyond the agricultural phenomena related to the production and distribution, consumption or even with the income that could be generated with the trading of its products. For the Amazon region, and this takes a great dimension than for other regions of the country, agriculture was formed, in these interpretations, as a moralizing activity, disciplinary, able of ensuring the creation of properties and regular settlement, besides it would allow the deployment of a way of life seen as civilized and modern. The path for this understanding has necessarily passed by the realization that speeches built around agriculture were associated with the policy of the imperial government, the contrasts between farming practices, the actions of aid and agricultural improvement, the policies of colonization aimed at the foreign immigrant, the indigenous peoples, and the practices of use of the national settler, that had in the Brazilian government, starting with the articulation of political forces from the Amazon region, its executioner.

