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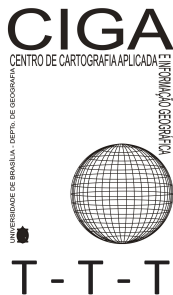
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## **CARTOGRAPHY AND TERRITORY OF ARAXÁ – MG: PAST AND PRESENT. A PRELIMINARY READING AND INTERPRETATION.**

**Roberta Maria Porfírio De Oliveira Borges**

Geógrafa, Bacharel em Geografia pela Universidade de Brasília (UnB). Pesquisadora Associada ao Centro de Cartografia Aplicada e Informação Geográfica da UnB (CIGA/UnB).

E-mail: [robertinhaporfirio@gmail.com](mailto:robertinhaporfirio@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT:** The article demonstrates with colonial and imperial cartographic references the evolution of the cartographic representation of the region between the Rivers Grande and Paranaíba before the consolidation of the Araxá's territory with the creation of it's county. As well, based on official information about Araxá's administrative forming and of the regional counties forming, this article confirms the rise in the territory of the Araxá's county, by the year of 1835, of all the counties that now are the Mesoregion of the Triangulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba (66 counties), as well as parts of the mesoregion of the Northwest Minas Gerais (5 counties) and the Central Mineira mesoregion (5 counties), totaling 76 counties. Therefore 8.9% of the counties of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais come from the territory of Araxá.

**keywords:** araxa – minas gerais - cartography - territory - history - origin of counties – triângulo mineiro - administrative forming

**RESUMO:** O artigo apresenta com referências cartográficas coloniais e imperiais, a evolução da representação cartográfica da região compreendida entre os Rios Grande e Paranaíba, antes da consolidação do território de Araxá, com a criação do seu município. Também, com base nas informações oficiais sobre a formação administrativa de Araxá e dos municípios da região, o artigo demonstra a origem no território do Município de Araxá, do ano de 1835, de todos os municípios que hoje configuram a Mesorregião do Triângulo Mineiro e Alto Paranaíba (66 municípios), além de partes da Mesorregião do Noroeste de Minas (5 municípios) e da Mesorregião Central Mineira (5 Municípios), totalizando 76 municípios. Concluindo que 8,9% dos municípios do Estado brasileiro de Minas Gerais e 1,3% dos municípios do país são oriundos do território de Araxá.

**Palavras-chave:** Araxá – Minas Gerais - Cartografia – Território - História – origem dos municípios - Triângulo Mineiro – formação administrativa

**RÉSUMÉ:** L'article montre avec des références cartographiques coloniales et impériales de l'évolution de la représentation cartographique de la région entre les rivières Grande et Paranaíba through la consolidation du territoire de l'Araxá avec la création de son comté. En outre, sur la base des informations officielles sur Araxá de administrative de forme et des municipalités régionales de comté formant, cet article confirme la hausse sur le territoire de la commune de la Araxá, d'ici l'an 1835, de tous les comtés qui forment maintenant sont les mesoregion du Triangulo Mineiro et Alto Paranaíba (66 comtés), ainsi que des parties de la mesoregion du nord-ouest de Minas Gerais (5 comtés) et le mesoregion minière centrale (5 comtés), totalisant 76 comtés. Par conséquent 8,9% des comtés de l'état brésilien de Minas Gerais proviennent du territoire de Araxá.

**Mots-clés:** Araxá – Minas Gerais - Cartographie - Territoire - Histoire - origine des comtés - Triangle Mineiro - administratives formant

## PRESENTATION

Araxá, Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba are recurrently object of studies and current publications in various knowledge areas. On a geographic perspective, we highlight the approaches: regional identities, social movements and political ideology of Longhi (1997); territoriality and rural conflicts of Silva and Almeida (2001); the archaeological site of Quilombo do Campo Grande in Ibiá and territoriality of the African-based culture in the region of Anjos (2010); agroindustrial production and agrarian reform of Junior (2012); regionalism of Souza, Silva and Leão (2013). There is also the historical basis given by the work of Martins (2008), which was strong reference and starting point for much of the research on the formation of the territory of Araxá here presented.

Considering that spatial data become more significant and allow other analytical constructs when viewed in a spatial context, use the resources of cartography to view the distribution of territorial phenomena constitutes a basic work process (Anjos, 2000, pp. 37-38), the article aims to show with cartographic records the foundation of the formation of the

Araxá's county, exposing an overview of how Araxá appears in colonial and imperial cartographic representation, the growing importance of its territory in the Official Cartography and territorial consolidation with the creation of the Araxá's county in 1831, and demonstrate (Table 4 and Figure 12) the origin, arising out of this territory of Araxá, 76 counties in the state of Minas Gerais, which now encompass the whole of the Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba Mesoregion (66 counties) as well as parts of the Minas Gerais Mesoregions Noroeste de Minas (Presidente Olegário, São Gonçalo do Abaete, Lagamar, Lagoa Grande and Varjão de Minas) and Central Mineira (Abaete, Morada Nova de Minas, Biquinhas, Paineiras and Cedro do Abaeté) (Figure 11 - 1995-2015).

The article is divided into five parts. First is presented a brief historical study with reference to the period from 1608 to 1835. Following we do an overview of the Colonial and Imperial cartographic major works that represents the territory studied in the period from 1706 to 1826. Then, based on official information provided by IBGE – Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, it presents the division processo of Araxá's county from 1835 to 2015 with the configuration of the administrative division of the territory over this time. After the conclusions and recommendations, it is finally presented the bibliography used, especially the sources of the old cartographic documentation reviewed in the cartographic panorama and the colonial and imperial historical documents that supported the preparation of the of the *Formação do Território do Município de Araxá - 1608 to 1835* (Table 1).

## **1. ARAXÁ, MINAS AND BRAZIL - A BRIEF HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE REGIONAL TERRITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING**

Araxá is a county in the state of Minas Gerais, located in southeastern Brazil. Minas Gerais is the Brazilian state with the largest number of counties that are 853 counties organized into 66 Microregions constituting 12 Mesoregions (Figure 1). In the current political division, Araxá is in the Mesoregion of Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba (Figure 2), whose 66 counties are grouped into 7 Microregions: Araxá, Frutal, Ituiutaba, Patos de Minas, Patrocínio, Uberaba and Uberlândia (Figure 2). The Microregion of Araxá consists of 10 counties: Araxá, Campos Altos, Ibiá, Nova Ponte, Pedrinópolis, Perdizes, Pratinha, Sacramento, Santa Juliana and Tapira of which Araxá is the most populous (Figure 2) (IBGE, 2015).

According to IBGE (2015), the first reports on the region where Araxá is located, between the Grande river and Paranaíba river (both tributaries of the Paraná river), initiated in 1669, with references to the existence of indigenous matrix inhabitants in the called Sertão da Farinha Podre (Triângulo Mineiro).

In 1709 the Province of São Paulo and Minas do Ouro were spun off from the Captaincy of Rio de Janeiro. Only 12 years later, in 1721, was spun off from the Province of São Paulo the Captaincy of Minas Gerais, approaching the inner government and, in 1748, was spun off from the Province of São Paulo, along with other captaincies, the Captaincy of Goiás, which turned to manage the passage of the Grande river and the Velhas river in the Sertão da Farinha Podre, which was on the way to Goyaz, called Picada de Goyaz (Table 1).

The Sertão da Farinha Podre, is a place that, until the arrival of the enslaved resistance movement, the Maroons quilombolas, was the refuge of indigenous array communities, and in 1748 and 1750 described at the Conselho Ultramarino (1642-1833) as a "Pai-Pirá Indians Sea ". The quilombos have developed at this place which is also the refuge of the residents of quilombos destroyed in the Great War of Campo Grande, especially the Povoação do Ambrósio - Cristais, destroyed in 1746. The Indians allied with the quilombolas, helping in fighting the War of Campo Grande, as in the Great Attack on Quilombo Campo Grande occurred in the Quilombo Ambrósio (Ibiá) in 1759-1760. In the Sertão da Farinha Podre, the Indians who allied themselves with the quilombolas survived, the ones who did not do that, died in poverty after the destruction of Campo Grande quilombos (Martins, 2008).

At this time, forwarded by the gold and strategic geographic position (the way from Sao Paulo to Goias), emerged and grew the Arraial das Abelhas, then called Desemboque (Martins, 2008).

With the demarcation of land grants sesmarias in this backwoods the first cattle farms were formed and, from 1770, Araxá receive its firsts residents and in 1780 it was already set up the Village. In 1791 was created the Parish of São Domingos do Araxa (Rosa , 2011). In the letter *Mostrace neste mapa o Julgado das Cabeceiras do Rio das Velhas e parte da Capitania de Minas Geraes* from 1796 (Figure 9) there is the indication of the main geographical landmarks of the region at this time, especially Sesmaria Barreiro do Araxá and Julgado do Rio das Velhas, formerly called until then by the names Arraial das Abelhas, or Arraial de Nossa Senhora do Desterro das cabeceiras do Rio das Velhas, among other names,

and later called Desemboque, as demonstrated in the *Formação do Território do Município de Araxá - 1608 to 1835* (Table 1 ).

The decline in mining also declined Desemboque. Increased livestock made the Araxá grow and consolidate. Raised to Julgado de Araxá in 1811, spun off from the Julgado de Desemboque and got the annexation of the Sertão da Farinha Podre to the Captaincy of Minas Gerais in 1816 (Rosa, 2011). This administrative configuration, the time of Julgado de Araxá, can be observed in the *Carta Corográfica Plana da Provincia de Goyaz e dos Julgados de ARAXÁ e DESEMBOQUE da Provincia de Minas Gerais* from 1826 (Figure 10).

Araxá in 1831 was raised to town. In 1835 the county of Araxá encompassed the entire Sertão da Farinha Podre, place where Araxá was the first urban center that sprang up and remained, officially becoming a city in 1865 (Rosa, 2011). The Araxá's county of 1835, covering the whole area here is called the Old County of Araxá. In *Territorial Formation of the county of Araxá - 1608-1835* (Table 1) all the administrative evolution of Araxá is demonstrated, especially the changing to county in 1831, when Araxá is raised to village and becomes headquarters of the county of São Domingos do Araxá.

## **2. MAPPING AND ARAXÁ - MAIN REFERENCES CARTOGRAPHIC COLONIAL AND IMPERIAL**

Among the main colonial and imperial cartographic references that portray the region, European and American letters have been found, cataloged as works in the following languages: Spanish, French, Italian, English and Portuguese. However, it all have terms in Brazilian regional languages. Cartographic works were selected and arranged in chronological order (Table 2 and Works No. I to VIII, respectively: Figures 3-10) for analysis in relation to the historiography of regional territorial and administrative training (*Territorial Formation of the County of Araxá - 1608 to 1835 - Table 1*).

The first cartographic records of the region brought hydrography of the Paraná River Basin, which are tributaries of the two rivers, Grande River and Paranaíba River, bordering the territory of the Triângulo Mineiro, and some aspects of the relief, however, the representation was limited to the Parana River, or just to the presence of the meeting of two tributaries forming the Parana River. In 1775 (Work No V - Figure 7), regional importance growing season, appears specified beside the River Paranaíba and the Rio

Grande, also the Rio das Velhas, where (as already shown in Table 1) on the left bank developed the Arraial de Nossa Senhora do Desterro das Cabeceiras do Rio das Velhas (Desemboque) and on the right bank developed the Arraial de São Domingos do Araxa (Araxá).

The evolution of the cartographic representation of the region follows the history of its administrative evolution. The Luso-Brazilian letters presented here were performed with the official objective of knowledge to assist the administrative management of the region, as evidenced by the title of letter *Mostrace neste mapa o Julgado das Cabeceiras do Rio das velhas e parte da Capitania de Minas Geraes com a devise de ambas as Capitancias dado pelo Capitam* (Figure 9) that spells the borderline of the captaincy and the authorship of the border, "given by the Captain."

Noteworthy is the high level of detail and accuracy of the Luso-Brazilian works in relation to the other, the difference can be observed particularly among *Mostrace* letters on this map the Judged of Headwaters of the Rio of old and part of Minas Geraes of Captaincy with the currency agreed both Capitancias given by the captain (Work No. VII - Figure 9) and General Map of South America From the Best Surveys (Work No. VI - Figure 8), which were produced in the same year. The Charter Corografica Plana of Goyaz Province and Justices of ARAXÁ and Desemboque of the Province of Ontario (Figure 10) also deserves mention, by bringing in a letter to scale 1: 3,000,000 1826 a detailed representation of paths, main localities, hydrography and relief Araxá region at that time.

### **3. DIVISION PROCESS OF COUNTIES FROM THE 1835 ARAXÁ 'S COUNTY TERRITORY**

In 1835 the County of Araxá encompassed the entire Hinterland of rotten flour (Table 1), the place where Araxá was the first urban center that sprang up and remained, officially becoming a city in 1865 (Rose, 2011).

From 1836 it began the process of division of the territory of the county of Araxá, originating, to date, 76 counties, all in the state of Minas Gerais (Table 4 and Figures 12, 13 and 14). In extensive research on the records provided by the IBGE (2015), it was made the study of the creation of counties, which resulted in the finding of the extent of

the territory of the county of Araxá in 1835 beyond the Greater Region of Triangulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba. In 1835 the territory of the county of Araxá corresponded to the territories of 76 counties in the state of Minas Gerais, encompassing the entire territory of the Greater Region of Triangulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba (66 counties) as well as parts of Mesoregions the Northwest Minas Gerais (President Olegario, St. Goncalo do Abaete, Lagamar, Great Pond and Varjão de Minas) and Central Mining (Abaete, Morada Nova de Minas, Biquinhas, Paineiras and Cedro do Abaeté) (Figure 12 - 1995-2015). The origin of these is demonstrated in the research and systematic represented in the organization (see Table 3 and Figure 11) of the official information found on creating each county (Table 4).

Some territories and territories fractions belonged to different counties in the course of regional administrative changes are important administrative intricacies that require further detailed investigation. To facilitate the understanding of the process presented here, we consider the effective local administrative setup at the time of creation of each county, according to data provided by the IBGE (2015), in simplified form, so we adopted the last or the most expressive membership of territory at the time of the break to sort the immediate origin of the counties. For methodological issues, territorial delimitation is based on the current configuration of the counties, also given by IBGE (2015), which, with the sum of the territories of dismembered counties, we make a projection area (km<sup>2</sup>) (Figure 13 and Figure 14) and delimitation of the territory of the counties in historical time (Figure 12), seeking to represent its configuration in the past (Figure 12 - 1835 to 1962).

The creation of counties was divided into generations (Figure 11 and Table 4), considering that the county of Araxá matches in 1835, the entire region (Figure 12 - 1835 Figure 13 and Figure 14), similar to a seed family, counties created by the direct division of this territory correspond to the 1st generation: Uberaba (1836), sponsorship (1840), Carmo do Paranaíba (1848), Sacramento (1870), Ibiá (1923), Partridges (1938) and Santa Juliana ( 1938). The 2nd generation corresponds to dismemberment occurred 1st generation of the counties, the 3rd of counties of the 2nd, the 4th of counties in the 3rd and 5th of counties in the 4th. counties are classified sequentially, according to the creation date of each, among the others who were dismembered in the same county (Table 4). Occurring in the future, new dismemberment, it can accommodate the new



counties in the descent following the same classification logic, according to the appropriate order, including, if necessary, in new generations.

A code was created for each county, called "Territorial Source Code of the County", consisting initially of six fields separated by periods (.). The first field a prefix (Arx), concerning the origin the first county created ( Araxá) followed by the remaining fields, each related to the upward county of each generation of counties (Table 3). At the end of the code there is no point, indicating that the last field corresponds to the county itself, classified for others who have exactly the same origin.

The break-up process of the 76 counties which arise from Araxá's county in 1835 implies the division of the territory into smaller territories for the new counties created. Thus, the county of Araxá was modified from the first dismemberment, Figure 1 shows the changes of Araxá county territory area over historical time as the creation of 1st generation counties (Table 4).

In process of dismemberment of counties coming from the territory of the county of Araxá - Minas Gerais - Brazil - Area Timeline Approximate counties in their year of birth and current area (km<sup>2</sup>) (Figure 13) changes in areas of the territories are shown counties over historical time as the creation of 1st counties of the 5th generation (Table 4).

From the IBGE (2015), current areas of counties were added to the area of the respective county from which comes its territory, according to the methodology already used to identify the origin and classification of counties (Figure 11 and Table 4), trying to get roughly the area of each county at the time of its creation. To portray the process of division of the territory in square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) to the present counties were arranged with their areas at the time of its creation in a timeline that begins in 1835 and extends to the year 2015 (Figure 13). The data arranged in a bar chart (Figure 14) allow the visualization of the distribution of land area in the years in which changes in the administrative setup. Then it calculated the fraction of the territory corresponding to each county at present, in relation to the Old County of Araxá (Figure 14 - Territorial Distribution Current).

#### **4. FINAL**

The colonial and imperial cartography analyzed showed in various perspectives, the representation of the region delineated by the rivers Grande and Paranaíba, at the time known as the Sertão da Farinha Podre, until the time when this territory divided by the Rio das Velhas, now called Rio Araguari, developed by its left side of the Julgado do Desemboque and the right side of the Julgado do Araxá.

The Desemboque developed with mining. With the decline of mining, the Desemboque suffered decisive losses, especially inhabitants, while increasing livestock strengthened the Araxá. In 1831 it created the county of Araxá. Consolidated in 1835, the county of Araxá had an area of approximately 105,307.01 square kilometers, the Old County of Araxá, covering the entire region between the Grande and Paranaíba Rivers greater extent than what is now Minas Triangle call. The development of the region demanded increasingly proximity to the management of urban centers that were emerging and becoming established. In 1836 began the administrative division process of the local area of Araxá.

Since 1831, 184 years ago, there was the creation of 76 counties with the territory of the Old County of Araxá, these creations took place in 22 different times. The first four moments occurred in the 1st half of the nineteenth century (1831, 1836, 1840 and 1848), in each of these moments only one county was created, thereby also occurs in five (1853, 1854, 1866, 1885 and 1888) of the seven moments of the 2nd half of the nineteenth century (1853, 1854, 1866, 1870, 1882, 1885 and 1888), and on two occasions this period were created more than one county (3 counties in 1870 and 2 counties in 1882).

With the turn of the century in the 1st half of the twentieth century for seven times (1901, 1911, 1914, 1923, 1938, 1943 and 1948) in just two is the creation of a county at a time (1 county in 1901 and 1 county 1914), other moments are multiple creation (3 in 1911, 3 in 1923, 9 in 1938, 3 in 1943 and 8 in 1948), adding 28 new counties the region.

The 2nd half of the twentieth century was marked by only 4 times, in which 34 counties were created: 6 in 1953, 21 in 1962, four in 1992 and three in 1995. It is noteworthy that 21 counties were created in 1962, representing 27.63% of all counties, is the culmination of concentration of the creation of counties in the region. The change in the regional political and administrative set-up in 1962, consists of about 11.03% (11,617.58 km<sup>2</sup>) of the total territory (approximately 105,301.07 square kilometers), which shall become the new counties.

Of the 22 moments of creation, half (11) occurred in the nineteenth century and the other half in the twentieth century, however, in the nineteenth century, 14 counties were created, 18.42% of the total, while 62 counties were created in the twentieth century, 81.58% of the total.

The territory of the Old County of Araxá today covers the territory of 76 counties in the state of Minas Gerais, covering the entire territory of the Greater Region of Triângulo Mineiro and Alto Paranaíba (66 counties) as well as parts of Mesoregions the Northwest Minas Gerais (President Olegario, St. Goncalo do Abaete, Lagamar, Great Pond and Varjão de Minas) and Central Mining (Abaete, Morada Nova de Minas, Biquinhas, Paineiras and Cedro do Abaeté) (Figure 11 - 1995-2015). The territorial configuration of the Brazilian current Minas Gerais State in 2015, which has 853 counties, 76 are from the territory of the Old County of Araxá, which corresponds to approximately 8.9% of the autonomous units of the state and 1.3 % of 5,568 autonomous units of the country.

The Constitution (1988) gives counties the assignment to order their territory, in a complementary way to other federal entities. Thus, there is an emphasis on local government as a focal point to promote a coherent spatial development, compared to the scale of the challenges posed by complex territorial problems that do not respect administrative divisions and demand, increasingly, the adoption of integrated governance actions, to transcend the limitations of fragmented interventions. In addition to tools for planning and land management, counties should endorse data and knowledge that support the realization of diagnostics, covering the technical and social agent look in practice a consistent and integrated approach to all policies and plans of the entities involved .

The knowledge of regional administrative developments contribute to understanding of the historical context and the design, development, implementation and evaluation of strategic plans to reconcile opposing objectives and conflicting development models. In this context, this history of maps and spatial distribution of official information on the administrative formation of counties, contributing to the understanding of the dynamics of political and administrative development and explanation of the current territoriality with their conflicts and harmonies, providing basis for making consistent decisions regional history in the political management of the territory.

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