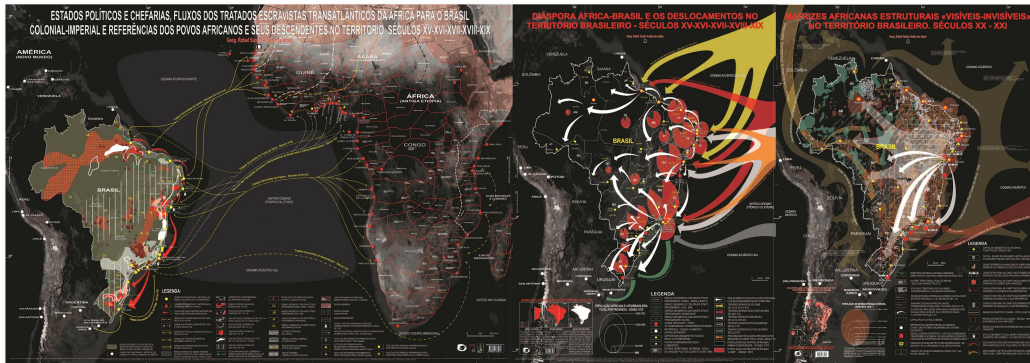


CRITICAL REVIEW

Anjos, Rafael Sanzio Araújo dos. *O Brasil Africano: algumas referências dos séculos XVI-XXI – Cartografia para educação*. CIGA, Departamento de Geografia da Universidade de Brasília, Brasil, 2014. Mapas Editora & Consultoria. ISBN: 978-85-87763-16-7.



Three maps that provide multiple understandings and information that transcend time and space, bringing together lives, traditions and memories that lead us to rethink our knowledge about Brazil and Africa.

This was the work of the geographer Rafael dos Anjos who, for several years, has offered us an updated and broad vision about the past and present of Afro-Brazilian and African populations.

His maps lead us to travel through the sixteenth and twenty-first centuries, they are didactic support for the establishment of various associations and mainly facilitate the emergence of perceptions that resist yet to be interposed and socially valued on both sides of the Atlantic. The panorama depicted is complex and the layers of realities that overlap on each plank can bring deep knowledge that Professor Dos Anjos has developed on the subject.

Thus, historical, geographical and cultural references are dealt with together; human, physical and political spaces intersect and temporally dynamize the humanities in motion. The dynamics that simultaneously affect Brazil and Africa since 1500 are seen in broad perspective and undoubtedly there lies one of the most interesting aspects of this work.

Definitely, the cartographic projections made by the Prof. Dos Anjos allow treating themes involving the teacher, the student and scholar. In Brazil, the movement for the recognition of traditional territories has there source of inspiration as far as groups more related to the socio-cultural promotion, the understanding of social processes that triggered new identity spaces and its impact on current society.

The African continent, in turn, is unveiled through its different ethnic and political groups. The size of the territory and human landscapes take on concreteness, which cartographically, was virtually nonexistent in Brazil. Hereby, the slavery undertaking is

exposed in detail, its phases and areas of influence are, here and there, temporally and spatially identified.

May the work of Professor Dos Anjos be widely spread and used in our schools. In it has the basis for questioning human movement during slavery, the slave trade centers in Africa and Brazil over four centuries, the different states and established chiefdoms in the African continent and the local concentration of populations transplanted in Brazil.

The set of readings and socio-temporal dynamics multiply through of indications of trade agreements that enabled the African trafficking and economic cycles that, in Brazil, have become synonymous with slave labor.

If one side of the slavocrat order is mirrored on the other hand, the movement of the quilombolas, of the returnees and the new diaspora is referenced. Amerindian populations are by no means forgotten, a condition that allows us inferences to meet ourselves.

These are some of the numerous associations that maps provide through a new composition where projections bring socio-cultural realities closer and are instruments of knowledge and promotion of rights. The guide printed is material that distinguishes these different layers of understandings and retrace, step by step, the complexity covered, while the cd-rom integrates visual ensemble and draws attention to the different populations involved.

The cartography demonstrates a knowledge linked to the expansion and territorial justification that in our time as in others confirm change on human and natural landscape. Fact is that the oceans were navigated, populations were displaced, walls were built and trenches were opened to defend possessions.

The way Prof. Rafael Dos Anjos glimpses this knowledge allows us to learn from technological elegance, with reasons for dialogue and healthy intellectual restlessness our five hundred years. That interest in this "Cartography for education" can multiply as much as the understandings that the material stimulates.

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Brussels, March 31, 2014

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