

Preface

The relations between France and Brazil in the area of geography have always attracted my interest. My professional formation has been built with much proximity with French culture, especially geography. This book comes as a result of research developed during the time I lived at the ParisIV-SorbonneUniversity where I received the unconditional support of Prof. Paul Claval who has a profound knowledge of French geography, is a prolific researcher, and is in constant discussion with Brazilian geography. It was a privilege to enjoy this distinguished company and share theoretical and methodological discussions. I have the pleasure of being considered as part of his circle of friends.

The study of the different aspects of French geography, its schools and tendencies, the creation and diffusion of its lines of research throughout the world, especially in Brazil, led me to remain 18 months in Paris, where I had many opportunities to deepen the object of my study.

I chose courses and seminars establishing the following criteria:

- Perceive the general level of discussion in Human Geography;
- Explore the courses and seminars which worked on new themes and maintained relations with geography activities in Brazil;
- Reflect on areas which allowed the possibility of outlining and perceiving the wide spectrum of human sciences in France.

Among the general criteria I included the choice of institutions to carry out the research. I chose the Geography Institute, located at 191 Rue Saint Jacques, which hosts the geography courses of the Universities of Paris I and IV. The *BoletimIntegeo* facilitated my research in its archives about the activities of French geography. The library of the Geography Institute of Sorbonne was fundamental for the research to move forward.

In France I also had opportunity to collaborate with Profs. Martine Droulers, Michel Rochefort, Jacques Lévy, Yves Lacoste, Marion Aubrée, Alain Touraine, Cornelius Castoriadis, and Augustin Berque.

I emphasize the discussions made recently with deceased Bernard Lepetit. His interest in the theme increased my own commitment.

Alex Mengue, a geographer from the Republic of Cameroon, was an excellent dialogue partner. We shared rich and fruitful discussions.

Clélia Lustosa, Vanda Sales, and Maria Geralda de Almeida with their criticism and suggestions allowed the deepening of my research and the perfecting of the analysis.

I thank Eustógio Dantas, a companion in many journeys, for his insistence in publishing the book.

I thank my companions in the Federal University of Ceará (UFC, Brazil) Geography department, especially in the postgraduate program and the Metropolis Observatory, for their constant encouragement and the way that they face challenges.

I thank those I supervise, for the scientific discussion and the pleasant and jovial interaction.

I thank Prof. Hervé Théry, for the kindness in writing the preface.

Emília, my wife, a companion for all moments, who participated actively during the research period and the development of the book.

I thank National Center of Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq, Brazil) that financed the research.

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French-Brazilian Geography

The Influence of French Geography in Brazil

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2016, XIV, 122 p., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-31022-0