

Geopolitics on the agenda: Genesis and evolution of the theme "territories and borders"



<https://doi.org/10.56238/chaandieducasc-022>

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ABSTRACT

This essay aims to problematize the concepts of Territories and Borders. It inquires about past times, pointing to the primary origins of the social organizations of men who gather fruit, roots and hunters, nomads and their relationship with geographic space. The text discusses the evolution of techniques and how they impacted the organization of the territory and the construction of borders. The text uses a qualitative methodology based on an analytical and exploratory investigation with a view to investigating the evolution of space configuration as a function of the evolution of

technologies. In view of this, he argues about the relationships between territories and borders with the new socio-spatial configurations derived from the new mobilities of volatile and speculative capital, forming economic power blocs and impacting borders and territories. It is concluded, to this extent, that territorial conflicts give new dynamics to the circulation of goods and, at the same time, make borders more selective obstacles to the migration of people and more open to the circulation of goods, thus impacting the entire circulation of the chain of goods originating from the capitalist productive chain, providing new forms of creation of added value and the expanded reproduction of capital.

Keywords: Relationship between territories/borders, Evolution of technologies, Volatization of capital, New economic and power blocs, Boundary selectivity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Reflections on the concept of territory and border are of great importance for us to understand the reality in which we live. The integration of international markets, the formation of regional and global economic blocs, the transposition of goods across country borders, the speed of communications, the internet and transport, the rapprochement and estrangement between cultures, all these processes are inserted in the context of globalization (or globalization of capital) and are directly related to the production of territories and their borders.

Thus, we intend to start our study with an important question about the conceptual categories of territory and borders: What is the role played by such categories in the current context?

To think of the territory as a category of geographical analysis means to refer directly to the space as a whole. The territory is not absent from the space, as the latter is, at the same time, one and multiple, being total as an object of analysis, but fragmented in its composition. This premise provides us with the idea that the production of space by man results in fragmentations that do not decharacterize



space, but give it new characteristics, which allow it to reproduce itself as such. Thus, the territory is an element that composes the whole and, as a cut, allows us to analyze a part of the spatial content. It does not mean that reality will be observed partially, without considering the broader relations between its elements. It only allows the researcher to get closer to a particular content, which together with other overlapping contents – these being the place, the landscape, the region – constitute a larger whole, which is the space itself.

This is a question that demands a well-defined methodological path so that we do not get lost in vague and obscure discussions, since the theme is broad and must be delimited according to specific and logical criteria.

2 A BRIEF PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

We can say that territory is to space as space is to territory. It is necessary to understand that the territory is a spatial cut-out produced by syntagmatic actors, that is, subjects who produce actions and reactions to the conditions that are socially imposed on them. The agents that construct and reproduce the territory can be nation-states, churches, LGBTQIA+ groups, private institutions, neighborhood associations, in short, there are several subjects that territorialize the space.

As an example of territory, we can mention the territorial delimitation of countries. If we look at the American continent from satellite photos, we will notice that it is not cropped as we are used to seeing it represented on political maps. From the satellite photo we see only an undivided surface, lacking lines drawn by man, but rich in natural barriers such as rivers, mountains, lakes, mountains, forests, which do not always constitute the borders of man-made territories. (CLAVAL, 1997)

Natural barriers can be borders for indigenous groups, as was the case in South America in the 1500s. Or even when in Europe there were no enclosures and rural properties were delimited by barriers specific to relief or hydrography. After all, territories have always played an important role, involving, above all, the difference between social groups, whether due to economic, socio-cultural or political aspects.

The concept of territory developed by geography was systematized in the traditional school. The concept of "living space", created by Ratzel in the nineteenth century within the German current of thought, is closely related to the concept of territory, which is considered equivalent to the one theorized by Ratzel. In this way, we refer to the concept of living space to broaden our understanding of territory and, consequently, of borders.

The living space in Ratzel is a portion of the space that determines whether a nation-state can have economic and political progress. The larger a country's territory, the greater its economic and political supremacy. The theorization of this concept by the German school had a practical character for the European policy of colonization of African countries and also for the organization and



consolidation of the territory of some European countries. Natural resources were the subject of dispute by European nation-states. (VALVERDE, 2004)

The industrial revolution was the extremely important historical moment for Europe, triggering an increase in the use of natural resources that were not used on a large scale before the 19th century. In this context, industrial production is linked to the availability of resources such as coal, for example. Since this and other resources are abundant in some portions of the continent, it means that owning a territory that is rich in natural resources is an important factor for the economic development of a nation-state at a time when industrialization depends on such resources. Thus, the validity of the concept of living space is justified by the historical context experienced by Europe, related to the intense economic and political changes. (ANDRADE, 1995)

Thinking from the point of view of the economic and political interest necessary for there to be spatial delimitation, we understand that the concept of territory is linked to the condition of power, that is, the need to establish borders is previously determined by an interest that resides in the economic and political development of a nation. Therefore, in order to have a differentiated development in relation to other countries, it is necessary to have territory and expand it. The notion of development is related to the condition of power, as economic and political status is intimately linked to this condition.

Currently, the dispute for territory is not carried out by the motivation to expand the borders of countries, because all over the world there are already consolidated delimitations, with the exception of some nation-states that dispute the domination of certain spaces, such as Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan. The control of territories on a global scale, taking countries as a reference, occurs through economic control. The concept of living space cannot be taken today to explain territorial disputes between countries, nor even to determine political and economic supremacy. It is enough to compare Brazil and Japan in terms of their territorial extensions to realize that size is not a factor in economic development. The concept of living space contributes to us seeing the territory as a spatial delimitation linked to the power of the subjects who built it. (VALVERDE, 2004)

The formation of regional economic blocs is a clear example that there are territories appropriated by the commodity. The creation of the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas), proposed since 1999 by the United States of America, aims to eliminate customs barriers that hinder the movement of goods on the continent. The FTAA would allow the movement of goods and services throughout the Americas to be carried out without any hindrance. But what is being considered is that in practice there will be mobility only of goods, and the border will play the role of restricting the movement of people, keeping the border of some countries participating in the FTAA, especially the United States, insurmountable by Latin migrants.



The current development of capitalism shows us that commercial alliances on a global scale are extremely important for the economic, political and social development of nation-states and that the size of the territory is not a limiting factor to economic progress as it was centuries ago, however, borders have presented selectivity with restrictions for the movement of people.

3 STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING: THE GENESIS OF BORDERS AND TERRITORIES

The first notions of "Territory" emerged thousands of years ago, with primitive societies. In these societies, man lived by gathering fruits, seeds and roots, hunting and fishing. Thus, from the moment that these sources of food became scarce in certain areas, he was forced to change his location in search of these foods.

Thus, we can conclude that in this type of society, man was attached to a certain area, only by the existence of food, necessary for his survival. There were no other factors and aspects that linked him to a particular place. So, in these models of society, man did not have any defined territory, he was nomadic, that is, he lived changing places, due to the search for new sources of food.

3.1 MAN'S FIXATION ON TERRITORIES

The end of nomadism, in this model of society, occurred through the observation of nature by man himself. Among these nomadic communities, as in all societies, there were differentiated, more curious men. Well then! These individuals, through the observation of natural phenomena, began to realize that certain species of fruit trees, which they used for food, produced seeds, which fell to the ground and gave rise to new species.

From this observation, he began to select seeds, to produce new fruit-bearing species, which he could use to feed on in the future. This process gave rise to what we call the period of "domestication of agriculture." This is where the foundations for the definition of territories begin, linked to the need to create new sources of food.

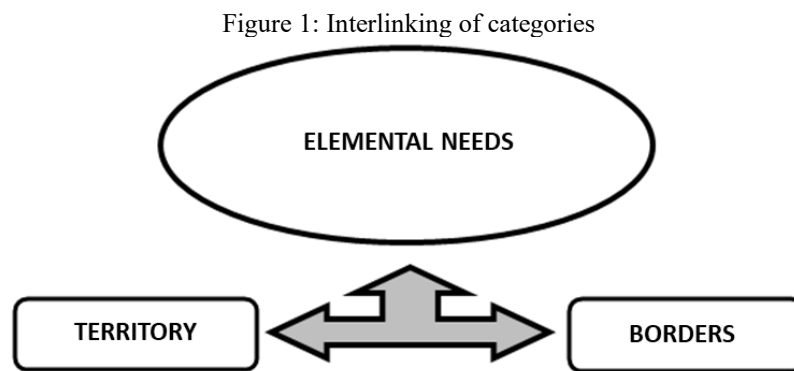
In the same way, observing the animals that he used (through hunting) for his food, he also noticed that they also reproduced, from the crossing between couples of the same species. Thus, he also began a process of selection of these animals, which were captured and placed in a closed place, where they could reproduce, being within reach of his hand, also aiming to solve problems related to future food. This is the process called "domestication of livestock".

We can then conclude that the origin of the territory occurred due to the fulfillment of one of the most basic and elementary needs of human beings: food, survival. It is interesting to observe, in this process, that this elementary need led man to realize the importance of the use of land and the need to fence off certain portions of space, which would cause him to begin a process of dominion over certain portions of land.



Thus, it can be seen that the emergence of the notion of territory arises as a function of a need, but linked to the idea of domination of natural resources, in this case, the land. There is also the incipient notion of land ownership, even if it were used to serve the collective interest of the entire community. This idea of land ownership also brings with it the notion of power and appropriation of nature's resources, that is, man begins to perceive the possibilities of domination of nature itself. (HUBERMAN, 2001). There is also the need to protect the borders of his portions of land, thus preventing invasions by other tribes or communities, as well as animals over which he had no control or dominion. Thus, the notions of borders appear, concomitantly, with the notions of territory. We can then say that these two categories are interconnected and interdependent.

Figure 1, below, is a schematic representation that summarizes what we have just discussed.



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Analyzing figure 01 you can see that the two categories (territory and borders) are interconnected and interdependent and arose due to the basic needs of survival of the human being, in the face of the environment, in primitive society.

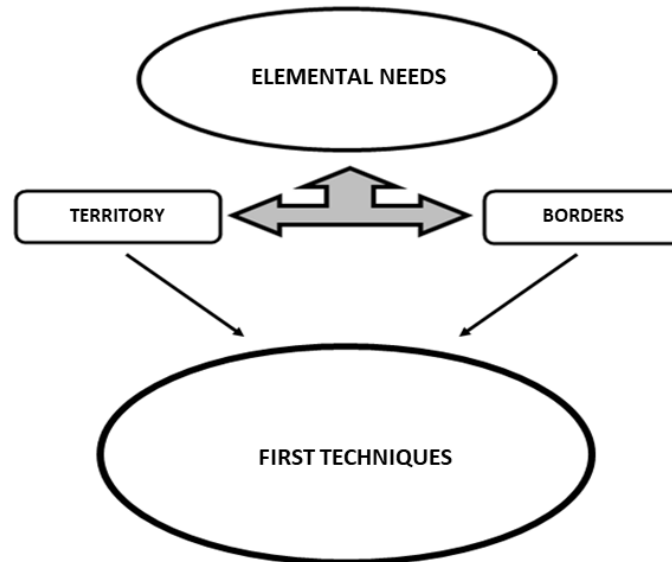
3.2 THE EMERGENCE OF THE TERRITORY BRINGS WITH IT THE APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST TECHNIQUES

The observation of the functioning of the principles of reproduction of species, aiming to meet the demand for food, even in primitive societies, made man begin to reflect on the idea of domination and appropriation of nature and its resources. Thus, man begins to manufacture his first utensils, aiming at working on the land and handling animals. These early tools (such as hoes, rudimentary plows, and mounts) began the techniques. (HUBERMAN, 2001)

The techniques related to agriculture were combined with the techniques related to the mastery of fire by man, which came to establish the rudimentary principles of the steel industry. Figure 02, below, is a complement to figure 1, that is, it is a schematic representation, showing the link between human needs, territory, borders, and the emergence of techniques.



Figure 02: Linkage of the categories of analysis (territory and borders) with the emergence of techniques.



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3.3 REFLECTING ON THE EMERGENCE OF TECHNIQUES

From the evolution of technology, man's attachment to the territory arises, economic relations, power relations, with their conflicts and contradictions. In this sense, the formulation of Porto-Gonçalves, 2006 is relevant:

There is no technique without practical use, and this distinction is, strictly speaking, absurd. After all, and here is another important characteristic of the technical phenomenon, technique brings in its use the intention in a practical state: by means of the technique, means and ends become *practically* concrete. Thus, it is always good to insist, technology is neither parallel nor exogenous to social and power relations. In this way, a critique of technique, even of a particular technique, is always a critique of the intentions implied in it, and thus a tension, a dubiousness, is introduced, even where it was believed that there was a simply rational action that was believed to be univocal and, therefore, unquestionable. However, every technique, being *a means*, is at the service of an *end*, whether it be a bow and arrow, a hoe, or a missile. (PORTO-GONÇALVES, 2006, p.79) (Emphasis in original)

We can verify that the evolution of the techniques and knowledge that produced them, or derived from them, configured the economic models that sustain and/or sustained all societies, until the present day. Thus, the techniques present in modern society are the result of a slow and gradual process of development and production of knowledge.

In this sense, we can also verify that the analysis of the categories territory and borders, brings in its core, an important reflection on its relationship with the production of techniques, knowledge and issues involving power, in the treatment of interests about the issues that the human being deems necessary for his life and his survival. Thus, to develop this analysis, we always have to take into account the disputes, conflicts and power games involved in its construction.



4 POLITICAL/ECONOMIC POWER: TERRITORIES, BORDERS, AND CONFLICTS

The observations made by man in past societies would be of no use if he was not able to assimilate, organize and produce knowledge from these observations. Thus, the reasoning capacity of the human being was fundamental to, in addition to distinguishing him from other species of living beings, also endowing him with the ability to develop techniques, facilitating his survival on the planet.

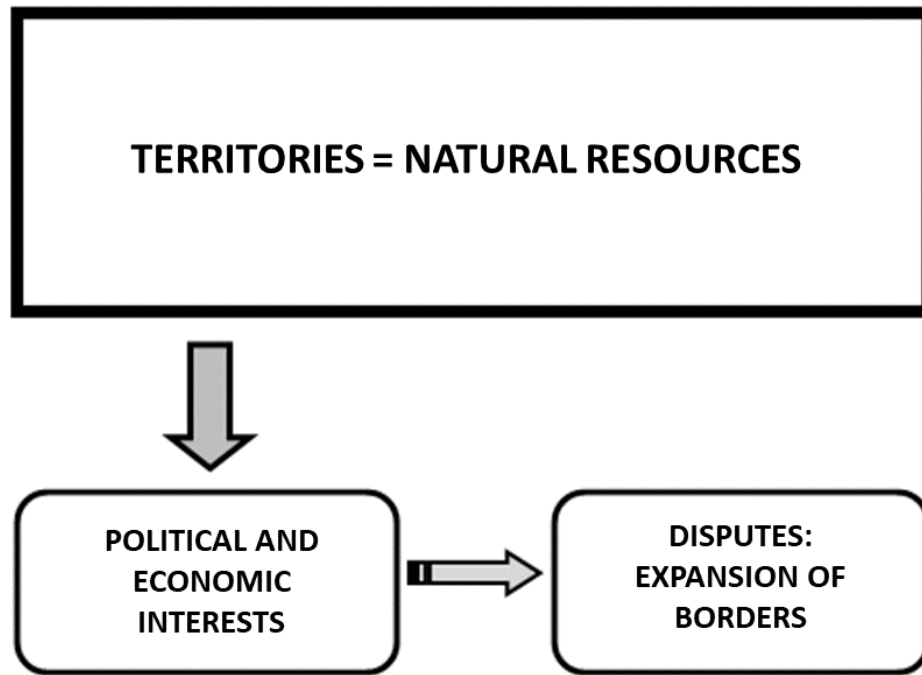
The ability to reason has also endowed human beings with interests, covetousness, and desires. According to this logic, man felt the need to protect his conquests, always aiming to increase and expand them. The configuration of the territory brought, therefore, the need to protect the boundaries of this territory, that is, the need to protect the borders. The borders became regions of dispute that involved the interests of maintaining the territories combined with the desire for their expansion: this would configure the disputes and the power game that involve the territories and the borders. (HUBERMAN, 2001)

This power game would be configured around economic and political disputes, always involved in diversified interests about natural resources. Most of the wars and military conflicts that have taken place, up to the present day, have involved disputes over political and economic power around interests in territorial expansion. We can therefore affirm that spatial disputes are at the center of the debate that involves the economic and political interests of the various peoples and different nations of the world. To exemplify these facts, we need only look at the history of the two great world wars and the world's geo-economic disputes.

Figure 03, below, summarizes what was discussed in the paragraphs above. It is a representation that shows the relationship that exists between political and economic power and the need for expansion of territories due to the demand for natural resources, through the expansion of territorial borders.



Figure 03: Relationship between territories, natural resources, borders, and political and economic interests.



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5 THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: REFLECTIONS ON TERRITORIES AND BORDERS

From the moment man settled in the territory, this category has been redesigned, modified in each type of society. But it was after the Industrial Revolution, which marked the material foundations of capitalist society, that this concept came to acquire new contours. The Industrial Revolution, which occurred in England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, came to shake the entire social structure, building a new dynamic for human life in society. (RAFFESTIN, 1993)

The First Technological Revolution, or more simply, the Industrial Revolution, signified a historical milestone for the construction of capitalist society. It would leverage new inventions and discoveries and, above all, it would create a new socio-spatial configuration on the planet, especially in the great European powers, which had managed to accumulate large volumes of capital, which needed to be reapplied to ensure their reproduction. To do so, they needed to invest in the construction of new means of transport to bring the raw material necessary for production and, above all, for the flow of this production.

In this way, the newly founded industry needed a whole production **logistics**¹ that would guarantee its operation, from the transportation of the raw material, through the process of transformation, flow and circulation of the goods produced by the industrial process.

Ana Fani Alessandri Carlos, 1989 defines the Industrial Revolution as follows:

¹ Logistics is the same as basic infrastructure, aiming to ensure the production, flow and circulation of goods produced in the industrial process.



The Industrial Revolution, far from presenting itself as a technical phenomenon, meant a transformation in science, ideas and values in society. It also meant exchanges in the volume and distribution of wealth, which until then had been centred on the monopoly of the nobility, which also conferred political power on it. In turn, it is the product of a historical process of the development of the productive forces and of the principle of specialization based on the division of labor, since man no longer produced for self-subsistence. (CARLOS, 1989, p.28).

The author continues:

The Industrial Revolution created the necessary conditions for accumulated capital to reproduce itself, namely:

- (a) innovation in working tools and methods;
- b) increase in the productivity of the soil, freeing the population of the countryside that migrates to the city, and will serve as labor for manufacturing and, later, for large-scale industry;
- c) expansion of trade;
- (d) the development of transport and the improvement of communication routes, expanding the internal and external markets;
- (e) use of other sources of raw material;
- f) decrease in the price of goods;
- g) credit development;
- h) improvement of the population's life (health, housing, food) (CARLOS, 1989, p.28-29).

One of the great innovations that followed the march of the Industrial Revolution was the invention of the **locomotive**², which revolutionized the transportation system throughout Europe and later around the world.

The Industrial Revolution brought as a consequence a new socio-spatial configuration. The geographical space was transformed as a result of the new industrial technology, the invention of the steam engine, the locomotive, in short, the space was redesigned around the logistics built for the transportation of raw materials, the flow of industrial production and the circulation of goods. Capital, which had previously been mercantile, henceforth received the status of industrial capital. With the emergence of the banking sector, the so-called **finance capital emerges**³.

On the other hand, there is an inversion in the logic of occupation of space by human populations, whose largest contingent migrates to the cities in search of jobs and better living conditions. The population which in the immediately preceding period, under the feudal system, was eminently rural, becomes urban. It can be said that capitalism has played an extremely revolutionary role by burying the values vaunted by the Church and the nobility.

² For a long time, steam locomotives were also powered by biomass (wood) fuels, and were therefore one of those responsible for the destruction of the native vegetation of the European continent.

³ Financial capital is the accumulation of capital resulting from the sum of capital from industries (industrial capital) and capital from the banking system.



Maria Encarnação Beltrão Sposito (2005) describes the accumulation and reproduction of capital under capitalism as a result of the urbanization process:

The city is, in particular, the place where the best conditions for the development of capitalism are met. Its character of concentration, of density, makes it possible to carry out the **capital cycle more quickly**⁴, that is, it reduces the time between the first investment necessary to carry out a given production and the consumption of the product. The city qualitatively and quantitatively fulfils the conditions necessary for the development of capitalism, and therefore occupies the leading role in the social division of labor. (SPOSITO, 2005, p.64)

In this sense, it is possible to conclude that urbanization has built all the necessary conditions for the reproduction and accumulation of capital.

In this sense, the Industrial Revolution also significantly increased the production process of goods, which depends on sources of raw materials and energy. Thus, following this logic, the territory also comes to be seen as a "*locus*" of the sources of raw materials. In this way, the territory is seen as a source of natural resources and energy, thus gaining new importance and new configuration.

6 THE SECOND TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION AND ITS INFLUENCES ON TERRITORIES AND BORDERS

The discoveries of new forms of energy, such as oil and electricity, were the events that inaugurated the period called the Second Technological Revolution. Energy was considered as a vital product for the production of commodities, aiming at the generation of profits in capitalist society. Thus, the world's energy matrix was entirely built from these two forms of energy, especially oil.

In this sense, the territories that have these energy sources have come to be considered strategic for the urban-industrial society. The largest oil-producing countries, such as the Middle East, have come to assume a fundamental role in modern society. So, these territories became areas of conflict, precisely because of the dispute over this energy source.

With the economic overvaluation of territories, borders also began to have new meanings, since they delimit these territories. Thus, border regions began to be closely monitored, which inspired the production of new technologies, aimed at attacking and defending these borders. Technologies related to observation and border defence, such as artificial satellites, have evolved significantly.

One fact that illustrates this point well was the recent conflict in Iraq. In that episode, the U.S., under the pretext of fighting terrorism, occupied Iraqi territory. But what was really at stake in this episode was ownership of Iraq's oil fields.

⁴ Emphasis added: Capital cycle refers to the stages necessary for capital to reproduce itself, i.e., the transformation of raw materials (production), outlets, circulation, and consumption of the produced commodity.



The geopolitics of oil, at the threshold of this century, has served as a subterfuge to threaten the autonomy and self-determination of peoples, justifications, hidden behind "anti-terror" and "anti-nuclear" discourses, for the invasion of territories, especially those where the largest deposits of this natural resource are located. In the name of these subterfuges, wars and carnage are justified.

7 REAL POPULATIONS, ARTIFICIAL BORDERS

The debate on borders and territories brings up several reflections and multiple interpretations. The evolution of societies has brought other values, linked to the meaning of territories and borders. Today, territory is intertwined with the possession of natural resources and, therefore, is intrinsically linked to political and economic power. The territory is then observed as an area of national security.

With this new connotation about territories, borders assume, far beyond boundaries and areas of delimitation of territories, the role of regulator and geopolitical control of space. Thus, borders, nowadays, assume an even greater relevance as a regulator of territories. In fact, borders, as regulators of territorial space, do not observe the real interests of populations, but rather the interests of the expansion and expanded reproduction of capital. ((RAFFESTIN, 1993)

The two great world wars serve perfectly to illustrate the geopolitical significance of territories and borders. After all, what were the two great wars for, if not for the expansion of territories and the expansion of new frontiers? The great winners of the two great world wars were precisely the USA, which had its territory spared and its borders expanded.

Thus, borders are drawn according to purely political and economic criteria, far removed from the interests and reality of the populations they claim to protect. We can see that, all over the world, borders are expanding in order to guarantee the possession of natural resources, especially those linked to energy sources, such as oil. After the first two Technological Revolutions, the territories gained new configurations and the borders underwent unimaginable expansions.

8 NATURAL (PHYSICAL) AND GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDARIES

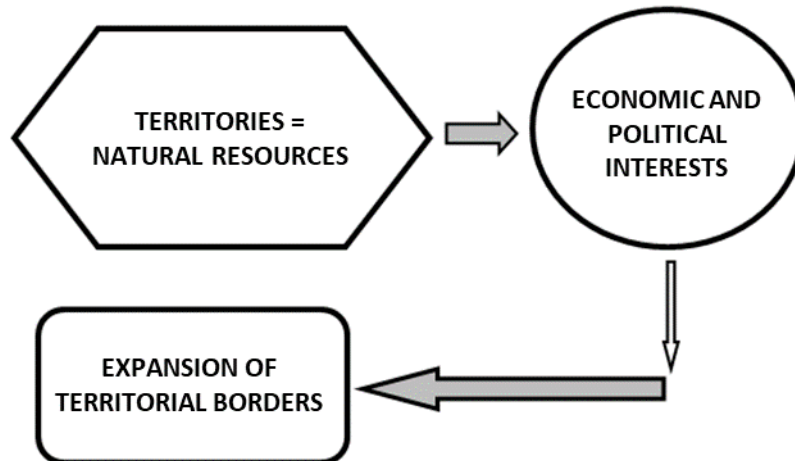
We saw, at the beginning of our study, that man was attached to the territory in order to meet his immediate needs, such as food, for example. In this case, borders were intended to delimit territories and protect them from external threats. However, we also saw that, as society evolved, new techniques were created, new interests and new conflicts were generated, thus bringing new meanings to the territories and their borders.

In the past, borders were drawn according to physical criteria, such as vegetation, geographical features, such as rivers, mountain ranges, peaks, hills, valleys, landforms, among other natural factors. However, what we have observed all over the planet is that these frontiers have been expanding significantly, serving geopolitical interests and the expansion of capital. As proof of this, we see



artificial territories, such as Kuwait, a territory created by the US, to be strategically used as a support base for the occupation of the Middle East. When we observed the state of Acre, in Brazil, we also verified the drawing of an artificial border [in a straight line], which served to justify the possession of part of the Bolivian territory, forcibly annexed by the Brazilian state.

Figure 04: Geopolitical aspects involving the Territory/Borders relationship



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Figure 04 is a schematic representation that shows the relationship of the geopolitical aspects involved in the construction of the concepts of territory and borders. From the illustration, political and economic interests are preponderant for the definition of territorial boundaries in modern society.

8.1 ARTIFICIAL BORDERS: FRAGMENTATION OF TERRITORIES AND DESTRUCTION OF ETHNIC IDENTITIES

History shows us that artificial borders separate ethnicities, destroy customs and traditions, and separate populations united by cultural identity. The construction of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the separation of Germany into two after World War II are facts that serve to illustrate this debate about territories and borders.

However, these same historical facts have undergone dismemberments that serve as important instruments for reflection on the establishment of artificial borders. In 1989, everything changed. In that year (1989), the great event that marked history was the fall of the Berlin Wall, the two Germanys were reunited and with the fall of the Wall, the greatest symbol of the **barbarism**⁵ and horrors of the Second World War fell to the ground. It was the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new world

⁵ Barbarism is the destruction of man by man himself, human self-destruction. This barbarity was clearly witnessed by Hitler's crimes in the Second World War. The term barbarism refers to barbaric, highly bellicose and self-destructive peoples.



economic order, the period called perverse economic globalization (in the words of Prof. Milton Santos), leveraged by capitalist and North American hegemony on the planet.

In the year 1991 the world witnessed the disintegration of the great Empire of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the USSR. Once again, the ethnic groups overcame the impositions of the artificial borders. The break-up of Soviet and German territory serves to help us reflect on the criteria used for the creation of borders. Do political and economic criteria outweigh the affinities established by ethnic and cultural identities? This is an important point for our reflection.

9 TERRITORIES AND BORDERS IN A GLOBALIZED SOCIETY

The increase in the speed of information, transport, telecommunications and the world wide web "reduces" the distances between peoples. The space/time relationship is configured according to the logic of velocity. These are aspects that characterize modern times, which mark the "overthrow" of the economic boundaries between the various peoples. The "global society", through the latest technology, also unveils the unprecedented crisis that marks modern times. The tendency of the so-called "global society" is to homogenize peoples, discarding and ignoring cultural, political, economic, ethnic, religious, artistic differences, among others.

Economic globalization is characterized by urban-industrial production, by the mobilization of speculative, volatile capital, which travels the planet in search of cheap labor and favorable conditions for its reproduction and self-expansion, above all, by the innovations resulting from the Third Technological Revolution, such as: the increase in the speed of the information system, through advances in telecommunications, and the World Wide Web (Internet) via the spectacular development of information technology. In addition, it is essential to highlight the spectacular advance of biotechnology, due to the development of research in the field of genetic engineering and the expansion of capital towards the field, which occurs through the intermediary of large international and transnational conglomerates. (FONSECA, 2007)

10 UNDERSTANDING NEOLIBERAL GLOBALIZATION

The term Globalization comes from "Globe", the shape of the Earth, which means the breaking down of boundaries between different peoples and nations. However, in today's times, the more correct name would be Americanization, because it is the construction of North American hegemony at the world level. You may remember that at the beginning of modern civilizations, the world went through a process of Europeanization, that is, the imposition of the culture, habits, customs, and beliefs of the European peoples on the most diverse nations of the world. In a critical view, this occurs with the so-called globalization, which is nothing more than the advent of the Americanization of the world. That is, the U.S. is trying to impose its culture on the rest of the nations on the planet.



In fact, true globalization began mainly in 1492, with the discovery of the Americas, in the period of the great navigations. These events inaugurated the process of discovery of the world, that is, the beginning of the understanding and comprehension of the world as a whole, which enabled the free movement of goods through different regions of the planet. But the Europeans tried to impose on all peoples their white, macho, religious culture, as well as their notions of progress and (dis)development. Thus, they did not respect the culture and the body of values of the most different peoples. Those who resisted their values, they called "Savages." In the name of white, European culture, various peoples, various ethnicities and various civilizations were decimated. Europe has pretended that it has not understood what globalization really is, it has not been able to have a broad vision of the world. It did not respect the differences between different peoples and nations.

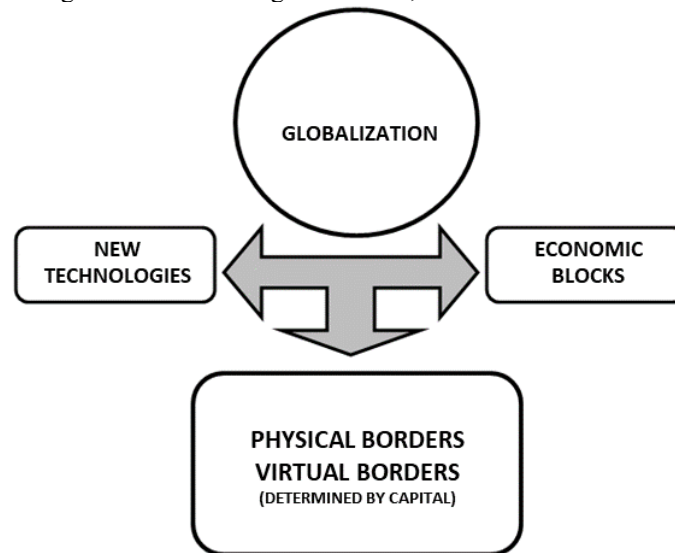
Carlos Walter Porto Gonçalves, 2004 helps us to understand globalization:

In addition to being blue, round and finite, the Earth has no boundaries except those of nature, such as those of clouds that are mobile, evanescent; or that of oceans and continents, even if diluted, vague. The idea of globalization, which seemed to overcome all barriers, is somewhat banal. Globalization is becoming naturalized. After all, the Earth is there, loose in space, naked, pure nature! Differences between peoples do not appear. This is a powerful image that overvalues the planet and hides peoples and cultures. The idea that we are facing a *cultural construct*, let us be careful, should not escape us, not least because, in the various images that are projected of the Earth into space, there is the rod of the satellite from which it was photographed. The technique hovers over the image. Behind the lens there is always someone looking, observing. In this case, a powerful technical system as a support for those who look and communicate – the satellite with its objectives. (PORTO-GONÇALVES, 2004, p.13-14) (emphasis in original)

It is within this context that the period called "Globalization" is inaugurated. Therefore, the Third Technological Revolution changes the concepts and reflections built so far about our two categories of analysis: territory and border. With the mobility of capital, which turns the world in search of profit, territory is also defined in other ways and borders are also established according to the logic of the expansion of capital. However, natural resources continue to be decisive for the continuity of the territory's importance. However, the new technologies are put at the service of the large economic blocs that monitor their areas of interest, now through hypermodern sensors and satellite images.



Figure 05: Economic globalization, territories and borders



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Figure 05 is a diagram that shows the aspects that influence the determination of territories and borders in modern times, also called globalization or globalized society. It is important to verify that in economic globalization, other factors will influence the constitution of territories and borders, such as new technologies influenced by the formation of economic blocs.

11 BRAZIL: TERRITORY AND STRATEGIC BORDERS IN TIMES OF GLOBALIZATION

Brazil, due to its peculiarities, is considered a strategic country. With continental dimensions and a strategic geographical location, the Brazilian territory occupies the largest area of the South American continent. The Brazilian territory, due to its size and natural riches, is, in current times, a territory that draws the attention of the various nations of the world.

Another aspect that places the Brazilian territory among the most coveted in the world is its immense diversity of natural resources such as water resources (approximately 12% of all drinking water on the planet), its enormous energy potential for being located in an intertropical region, its incalculable wealth in biodiversity, especially in the Amazon Forest, the Cerrado and what remains of the Atlantic Forest. as well as mineral resources, such as ores, gold, silver, precious and semi-precious stones.

Precisely because of this infinity of natural resources, the territory is extremely strategic, for the present and for the future. To give you an idea of our biodiversity potential, only 13% of our plants in the Amazon are cataloged. This means that we still don't have an exact calculation of our natural genetic potential of the rainforest.

For all this, and for its continental size, the Brazilian territory has an extensive border region, difficult to access, in addition to the difficulty of inspection, due to the immense area of tropical forests.



Not to mention our extensive coastline. Precisely because of this large amount of natural resources, the Brazilian borders are constantly monitored and surveilled, through satellite images.

Figure 06, below, highlights the Amazon ecoregion, we can see that the border contour highlights the entire legal Amazon, which goes from the slopes of the Andes Mountains to the Northern Region of the Brazilian territory. The size and quantity of natural resources of our tropical forest justify the importance that the debate on territories and borders assumes today, especially in our territory.

Figure 6: Map of the Amazon ecoregion



Source: Teixeira et al. (2009).

So, we can affirm that in modern times, the debate on these categories assumes a prominent place, since conflicts over the possession of natural resources are the guarantee of the future for this and future generations of living beings. It is up to us, future educators and professionals in the field of geographic science, to incite this important debate, even as a means of placing the management and correct use of our natural resources at the center of the discussions, as a means of ensuring the long-awaited socio-environmental sustainability.

12 NOT TO CONCLUDE! PARTIAL CONSIDERATIONS!

But territory is not created only by economic or political assumptions of the scope and/or scope of the modern state. There is production of territories by social classes that create boundaries in the urban space, by religious groups that make the space "sacred", by individuals who identify with prostitution, drug trafficking and territorialize streets and avenues by using them at certain times of the day. The street itself is a territory created by the State, which by overlap is territorialized by the uses that the urban population employs in them.



It is also possible to think of the territory from the point of view of the divisions of a house into rooms in which different uses are established by members of the same family. It is a form of delimitation of the territory through the uses and appropriations of individuals who relate to each other in a group and establish boundaries through uses and appropriations.

The private property of rural and urban properties is also an example of a territory whose border, permeated by tacit or open regulations, presents restrictions to its transposition by subjects who are not legal owners, and cannot be invaded or illegally occupied.

Identity is an important concept for the production of the territory. Brazilians identify themselves not only because they were born in Brazilian lands, but because they have a common language that identifies them from north to south of the country, in addition to the languages of the original peoples, which have become secondary and even brutally extinguished, due to the added value of land ownership.

Indigenous groups also own territories and identify themselves as native peoples, traditional communities because they have ethnic matrices common to each other, as well as a similar culture and way of life, which reproduce in the territory. During the process of colonization of Brazil, numerous indigenous tribes were decimated and groups were deterritorialized. It means that cultural reproduction has suffered losses because it has been deterritorialized due to the occupation of the country by economic uses and political organization. Take, for example, the brutal attack by Yanomami communities, to the detriment of conflicts over land ownership. In this way, we can understand that the territory is produced by culture, which to be reproduced needs a delimited space, where the subjects who appropriate it construct their identities.

Globalization has brought significant technological innovations in terms of improving the means of communication. Journeys between continents that once took months can now take place in a few hours. The speed of communication has facilitated contact between peoples, between different cultures and has favored the world economy. However, the frontiers for human mobility have closed. Rich countries hinder the entry of migrants from developing countries while facilitating the entry of goods that are of interest to the economy, as well as establishing economic alliances with countries that are interesting for trade.

In this way, we can think about the role of borders in relation to the movement of people and goods, questioning the validity of the economic opening established by the constitution of regional economic blocs that attribute to the borders that guarantee selectivity to free movement.



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