The Impact of Land Policies on International Migration and Transnational Practices
central-western
Brazil

Getulio Vargas (1930 – 1945) *March to the West*

- Fertile soil
- Sovereign

**Other Factors**

- Draught in the Northeast *(1930s-1980s)*
- Construction of Brasilia *(1956-1960)*
- Itaipú hydroelectric *(1975-1982)*
central-western
Paraguay

Alfred Stroessner (1954 – 1989) *March to the East*

1963

• Law 852/63 Institute of Rural Welfare
• Law 854/63 Agrarian Statute (*Social Function of Land*)
• 1967 Constitution allowed foreign nationals to purchase land in the country
Waves of Immigrants

1960s: Nordestinos (North-Easterners)

✓ Comprised of ethnically mixed Europeans, Amerindians and African descendants

✓ Mostly of impoverished peasants

✓ Perceived as “inherently obedient”, less educated and so suitable for doing the hard work of clearing the land
Waves of Immigrants

1970s: Sulistas (Southerners)

✓ Mostly relatively wealthy farmers of European descendants
✓ They could purchase farms and mechanised the modes of production

‘Fronteiriços’ (Frontier/ border people)

(Tiburcio 1994, 193-194)
### IMMIGRATION TO PARAGUAY

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>636</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>442,104</td>
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- By the 1980s, Brazilians became a major ethnic group in certain regions of Paraguay and acquired an economic influence
‘Paraguay is my Homeland and Brazil is my country’

Antonio, 63, 42, 2013, Antônio Irmão - Brasiguaios
Nós Brasiguaios, acampados em Mundo Novo, queremos contar um pouco de nossa história. É cheia de dor e sofrimento. Somos de todos os Estados do Brasil. Fomos obrigados a ir para o Paraguai.


Fomos obrigados a deixar a terra natal para não viver como bóia-fria. Imigramos para o Paraguai.

Queremos dizer à população de Mundo Novo que fique tranquila. Se o governo cumpriu sua promessa, não vamos ocupar terra de ninguém.

Agradecemos o apoio e as visitas que já recebemos. E contamos com a colaboração de todos, porque precisamos de alimentos, agasalhos, medicamentos, lonas... Todo tipo de ajuda será bem recebida.

Mundo Novo, 21 de junho de 1985

Brasiguaios acampados em Mundo Novo.
Brasiguaios
expulsos do Paraguai...
esquecidos no Brasil!
Emerging Findings

• Brazilians lived illegally in Paraguay due to existence of a large number of Brazilians
• Reshaping the everyday life of local communities in both countries
• Establishment of a 50km zone inside Paraguay’s borders in which foreigners would be prohibited from purchasing land (law 2532/05) (“Anti-immigrants Barrier”??)
Emerging Findings

• Loyalty to Brazil through the acquisition of a birth certificate to the same child in both countries (sometimes under different names)

• Uphold their status as Brasiguaios to differentiate themselves as a distinct group from the rest of Brazilians

• Socio-economic and racial segregation amongst Brasiguaios
Theoretical Implications

• Effectiveness x Effect of ‘national’ policies
• Understanding of nationalism
• Identity formation
• Exercising citizenship
• Cultural production
• Role of informal and formal networks
Thank you