

ABSTRACTS

Barabas, Alicia Mabel and Miguel Alberto Bartolomé, *Anthropology and Relocations*

Barabas and Bartolomé propose that as displacements and relocations of human groups have stopped being considered as cross-roads phenomena, they have become the subject of anthropological research, discussion and practice. To sustain this hypothesis they offer the revision of some examples of reservoirs and relocations in Latin America and, from an anthropological point of view, they analyse the involuntary displacement and relocation of towns, particularly in certain objective and subjective aspects of the social actors involved and the social movements that come as a result of the relocations. Finally, they underline the difficulty of the insertion of anthropologists to the task forces in charge of the relocation, an area traditionally reserved to engineers or technicians.

Bartolomé, Miguel Alberto, *Reservoirs and Relocations of Indigenous Groups in Latin America*.

This essay approaches the problem of compulsive relocations of the indigenous populations in Latin America, a phenomena that, apart from the construction of reservoirs, has been present in the region since the XVI century. In the case of the construction of great reservoirs, one of the main problems arising from the need to restore the land to the populations displaced which has been identified, which is a very serious situation if we consider that not only does it mean a change of residence, but also one of territoriality and identity, and what defines the relationship of a human group with the land, is not their sense of property, but their existential link, which is constructed through their history.

Other elements which can not be ignored when a relocation is proposed are: 1) the nature of local political action vs. the nature of national political action, 2) the socio-ecological confrontation, and, what is most important, 3) the extended ethnocide which is understood, as is by Clastres, as "the systematic destruction of the forms of life and thought of people who are other than those promoting this process".

Santos, Silvio Coelho dos, *Reservoirs and Socio-environmental matters in Brazil*.

Highly negative socio-environmental impacts for the marginal sectors of society are associated with the implantation of economic macro projects, particularly in reservoirs destined to the installation of hydroelectric plants in the tropical forests.

In Brazil, indigenous groups and rural populations have

lived different negative experiences as a result of this type of projects being implanted, such as thousands of hectares, which before were previously covered by jungle and being flooded. The Balbina hydroelectric located at the north of the Brazilian Amazonia, is taken as a paradigmatic case for the State nation which sponsored these works, moves within an integrationist, authoritarian and coercive vision, which favours the privileged sectors of a national society.

Sallenave, John, *The Hydroelectric project in James Bay: the ruin of a territory*.

The Hydroelectric Project in James Bay, north of Quebec, Canada, illustrates the consequences of an economic growth model selected by the governments of industrialized nations as well as transnational corporations, which have acquired an insatiable appetite for new supplies of resources and have accelerated the rates of extraction of natural resources to incredible levels, without considering the high social and ecological costs to most indigenous culture whose subsistence directly or indirectly depends on the preservation of traditional life styles and their eco-systems. The study here reviewed exemplifies how immediate interests and the political convenience of some governments become more important than ecological and socio-cultural interests of an indigenous society.

Aronsson, Inga-Lill, *Impressions of a resettlement project*.

The first impressions of an anthropologist who has witnessed the re-settlement process which is taking place in Zimapán (Mexico) are discussed. The author points out that there are very few successful re-settlements - and Zimapán is no exception.

Therefore it is legitimate to question the working methods, the epistemological presuppositions, the organization and the training of those who participate in them, before the relocation take place, because towns and people with particular life perceptions are at stake.

Pérez Quijada, Juan, *Re-settlements. Thirty years later*.

The Miguel Alemán reservoir was built in 1957, destroying the habitat of the mazateca culture, which was separated from its original land, to which little by little those who did not adapt to their new home returned, but are now facing a different sociocultural situation, with new sectors, economic groups and factions, which would enter the political arena in later years. This document follows-up the evolution of the

populations of the reservoir (since it was built until the decade of the eighties) from an economic variable which arose from fishing, up to today social and political organization.

Molina Ramos, Eduardo, *Factions and Power in Arroyo Tambor: the impact of the "Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado" reservoir, on a political micro-process.*

Molina states that the construction of reservoirs responds more to a political decision than to a technical one, which brings together the interests of the nation with a "patriotic" content regarding "well-being" and "national development" with the region's objectives where they are projected. For his analysis he takes the case of the Arroyo Tambor community and divides its scenario in three dimensions; 1) the level of responsible institutions, 2) in the area affected locally and regionally, and 3) an intermediate one where all sorts of negotiations take place.

Gallart, Nocetti, Ma. Antonieta and Patricia Greaves Laine, *A monitoring experience of the population resettlement for the construction of the Aguamilpa and Zimapán hydroelectric projects.*

When the World Bank recognized that re-settling populations also created, they defined a new relocation policy according to which the social impact of hydroelectric projects in Aguamilpa and Zimapán (Mexico) would be evaluated. Gallart and Greaves describe this process in detail and underline the difficulties facing this type of work. Lack of hiding of information, lack of decision making power, lack of communication between executor and monitor, coordination before, during and after the physical relocation of the population, etc.

Robinson, Scott S, *The Pangué, Río Bío Bío, Chile Hydroelectric project and its importance for the future of the infrastructure works.*

This essay summarizes the background and implications of the construction project of the Pangué reservoir on the Río Bío Bío in Chile. The negotiations to finance this hydroelectric project establish an unusual precedent because the electric company in charge of the works (Pangué, S.A.) created the Pehuen Foundation which through active participation, would bring capital to an entity in which the community and the company participate in the design and imple-

mentation of development micro-projects. This text goes through the project in its institutional contexts when it began, the guidelines of the Pehuen Foundation and its implication for future hydroelectric and energy projects in Latin America.

Orozco Cervantes, Patricia. *Huatulco Bays. Outline of the Relocation.*

As the title of this article indicates, Orozco outlines the relocation process of the populations involved in the construction of the Huatulco Bays Tourist project (Mexico). The author follows the negotiation and moving stages of the populations of the zone step by step and indicates that the process was extremely difficult, for the pressure of groups, the opportunism of its leaders, the populism of the Government of the State of Oaxaca, the lack of definition of a policy to meet the social demands among others, were all part of it.

Tyrtania, Leonardo, *The evolution of artificial lakes: the ecological impact of the Miguel Alemán Reservoir.*

When the author analyses the ecological impact of the Miguel Alemán Reservoir, he questions the generalized belief that large reservoirs bring great benefits, and that without them poverty would be even worse. He bases himself on the research by Goldsmith and Hildyard, which has studied over 30 reservoirs built all over the world, and no where has poverty and hunger been eliminated, let alone has the "environment improved". In the case of the Miguel Alemán Reservoir, Tyrtania concludes that the region looks like a "disaster zone", and he says so because he is convinced that for research to contribute to define problems, it must begin calling things by their name (regardless of whether problems have or don't have a solution).

López Cortés Eliseo. *Construction of hydroelectric reservoirs and state axial structures.*

This article reviews, from the anthropological framework of anthropologist Richard N. Adams for the analysis of power structures, the causes which lead national governments to the construction of gigantic hydroelectric reservoirs. His empirical reference is the construction of the Miguel Alemán reservoir in the Low Mazateca, which reaches the states of Oaxaca and Veracruz (Mexico). At the same time, it undertakes a dialogue with Karl Wittfogel's Oriental Despotism theory.