

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

This contribution aims to study the Iron Quadrangle (IQ), one of the world's most important mineral provinces located in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Three hundred years of mineral exploitation and population densification in IQ have yet left unexplored highland areas with one of the most beautiful Brazilian landscapes. They are now the target of future mega-mine plants.

The decisions made by the government and transnational companies that lead to ore exploitation into the highlands are based on the calculus of the fluctuations of the stock exchange and the possibility of transporting the ores across the planet. The scale and pace of ore production lead to disasters (P. Virilio) such as those that occurred in Bento Rodrigues (2015) and Brumadinho (2019).

The survival of life in the highlands and the security of the population of QF depends on a revision of the history of the highlands. We have to rethink its temporal and spatial frameworks; criticize the notion of mining vocation and locational fixity: where there is ore it has to be mined. And tell which elements are taken into account for the choices that have been done. The historical study may be a basis for local territorial policy. Against the scenario of destruction, we question how to articulate the defense of the highlands, taken as a common, to the movements of integrated global capitalism.