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Lydia M Canter

Settling the Brazilian Frontier: The Role of Military Colonies, 1849-1889

Military colonies were used in the nineteenth century to settle the uninhabited interior of Brazil, not only to pave the way for settlement and development of the wilderness, but also to secure the territories and boundaries of the county. The author analyzes the reasons for the military colony - from the initial governmental decision, to the exploration and charting of the unknown territory, and to the actual founding of the colony. The postinstallation phase analyzes the challenges faced by the colonies, including the lack of adequate communications and available roads as well as the threat of Indians. The effort to occupy the wilderness and to secure the national boundaries continues to be a major preoccupation of the Brazilian government.

Lyndburst Collins

The Dynamics of Regional Identity in a Frontier Region: The Case of Alsace

Strong feelings of regional identity are an integral part of the psyche among the inhabitants of Alsace, a region of France bordering on Switzerland and Germany. Alsatians also have an intense loyalty to France whose citizens probably have a stronger feeling of national identity than those in most other European countries. La dualite Alsacienne can be explained only through an understanding of Alsace's turbulent history and of its geographical position as a frontier region or province with respect to the rest of France has forged, through its history and geography, the development of a set of distinctive "particularisms" that distinguishes Alsace as a separate culture area. The physical milieu of Alsace has enabled the development of high quality viticulture which of all agricultural activities lends itself most to the development and preservation of distinct landscapes. Alsace's quality viticulture has led to the development of mass tourism that is being used to project the strong feelings of Alsatian regional identity beyond the boundaries of the region. Finally, the preservation of regional identity in Alsace is considered in the context of changing circumstances involving significant transboundary cooperation in the new peaceful Europe of the Regions. Within this, Alsace is now located at the very core of Europe's golden triangle.

John P. Tiefenbacher

La Frontera Quimica: Toxic Emissions and Spills along the U.S.-Mexican Border

Toxic releases and spills along the U.S.-Mexican border are examined to define the "chemical frontier," where economic growth is increasing industrial-chemical risks to local populations. The chemical frontier is expanding into Mexico as a consequence of industrialization and free trade, creating what is known as la frontera quimica. Analyses show that emitting facilities are found in counties with higher population densities and little

or no agricultural activity. Spill reports were greatest in countries with high populations of non-Hispanics and non-Spanish speakers, high incomes, low poverty rates, and low percentages of employment in the agricultural sector. The borderland is being assimilated into the U.S. industrial landscape. The growth and movement of non-Hispanic populations into the greater border region represents not only economic growth and development, but also the transference of the hazards that come with that growth.

Jorge Carrillo and Alfredo Hualde

Third Generation Maquiladoras? The Delphi-General Motors Case

This study is an analysis of the Research, Design, and Development Center of Delphi-General Motors, established in 1995 in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. This center designs and develops prototypes of autoparts, determines their manufacturability, and maintains productive links with assembly plants of the parent company. The objective of this study is to determine if this particular case represents a radical leap in technology and productive techniques with regard to the maquiladora plants previously established on the border. The main hypothesis of this study is that a different kind of maquiladora, or third generation maquiladora, is taking shape, comprised of research, design, and development (RD&D) centers that had begun with organizational training offered, particularly in second generation maquiladoras. This hypothesis is based on the plant's orientation toward shaping a labor-intensive industrial conglomerate that employs highly skilled, professional labor, as opposed to other maquiladora plants that employ either labor with little education or semi-skilled labor.

Cecilia Garza, Jan Hot-an Therese Schwab, Yoko Sugibara, and Judith Ann Warner

Knowledge of HIV/MDS in Texas-Mexico Border Colonias: A Pilot Study

This study examines the knowledge of HIV / AIDS among colonia residents in the Texas-Mexican border region. Spanish and English versions of questionnaires were developed to ask a series of public health questions about HIV / AIDS knowledge. One hundred twelve colonia residents completed the questionnaire. Sixty-two percent of the questionnaire respondents reported United States citizenship while 29 percent were Mexican nationals. Respondents answered questions about various public health dimensions of HIV / AIDS transmission and prevention. Results indicate that colonia residents need more knowledge of HIV / AIDS. For example, it is important to know the difference between being HIV infected and having AIDS. A significant number of residents lack knowledge of prevention techniques and how HIV is transmitted. The conclusion is that a culturally sensitive prevention program in both English and Spanish is necessary to prevent HIV / AIDS transmission among colonia residents in the U.S.-Mexican border area.
