

DAMs as totalizing event

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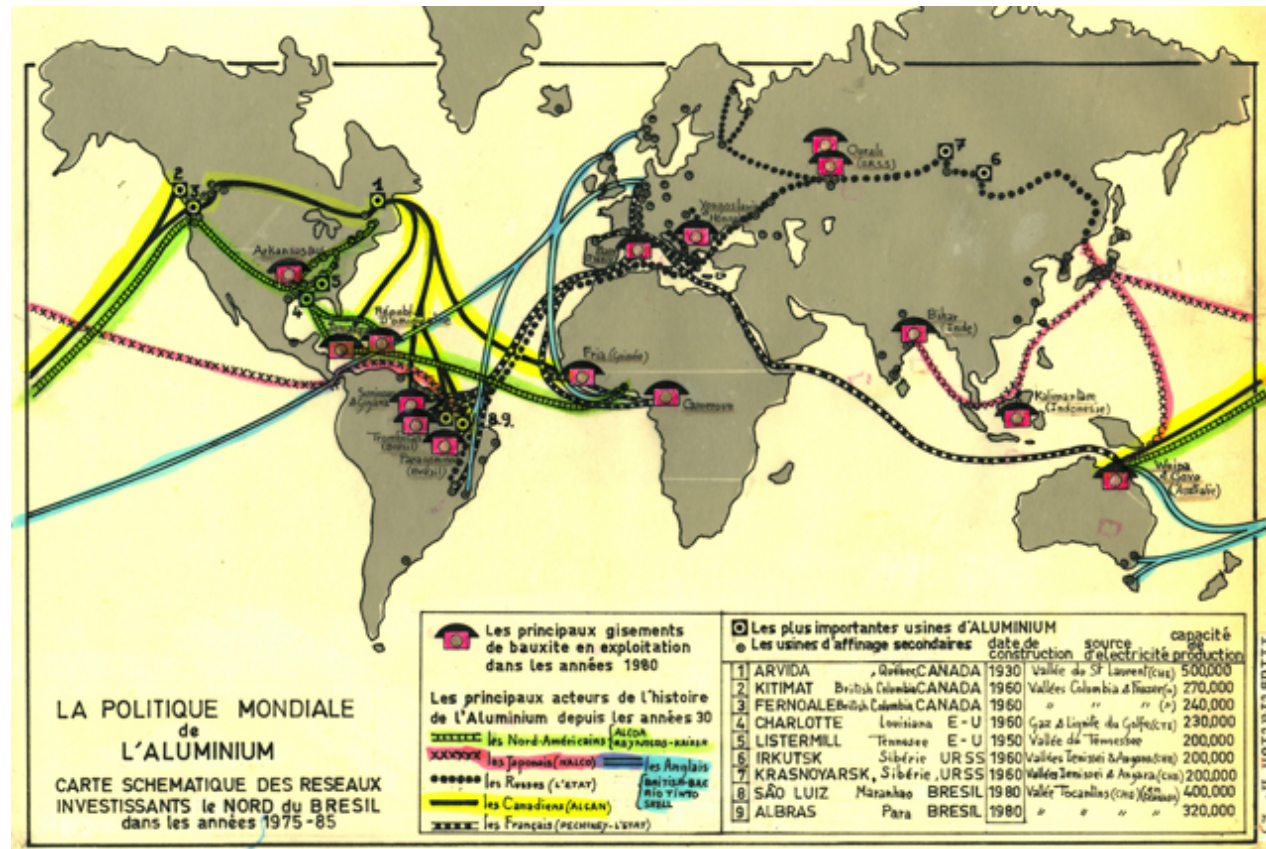
DAMs as totalizing event

- **Anthony Oliver-Smith define disaster “as a totalizing event.” (1996):**
 - “it tends to be a totalizing event or process, affecting eventually most aspects of community life” (SMITH, 1996, p. 304);
 - It is useful to think about DAMs. (Are DAMs disasters?).
- **DAMs are totalizing events:**
 - It affects different aspects of social and environmental lives;
 - We need to consider different processes, relations and scales (temporal and spatial) in order to understand it.

DAMs as geopolitical event

- **David Harvey (2010), “capitalism never solves its crises — it merely moves them around geographically”**
 - After the International Oil Crisis in 1973, primary industry has been relocated to Global South. According to Coelho *et al* (2010), in Brazilian Amazon primary industry of aluminium was connected with Tucuruí DAM;
 - World Bank has pressonated South countries to open their *hidrobussines* sector to global companies (Piper, 2015).
- **IIRSA: neo-extrativism industry on Amazon (See Castro, 2012):**
 - DAMs are a kind of neo-extrativism industry. (Sevá, 2011; see McCully, 2001).

Primary industry and power



- The annual consumption average of a house with 4 people in Brazil is 2500-3000 kwh.
- For a ton of aluminum is necessary the consumption of five or six of these houses: 18.000 kwh.
- Data of Sevá, 2008.

Christian Nidriche, 1982

DAMs as economic chain

DAMs as hidrobusiness (Piper, 2015)



Brazilian construction, cement and iron companies



Foto: LASCOR
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Global Supply Companies

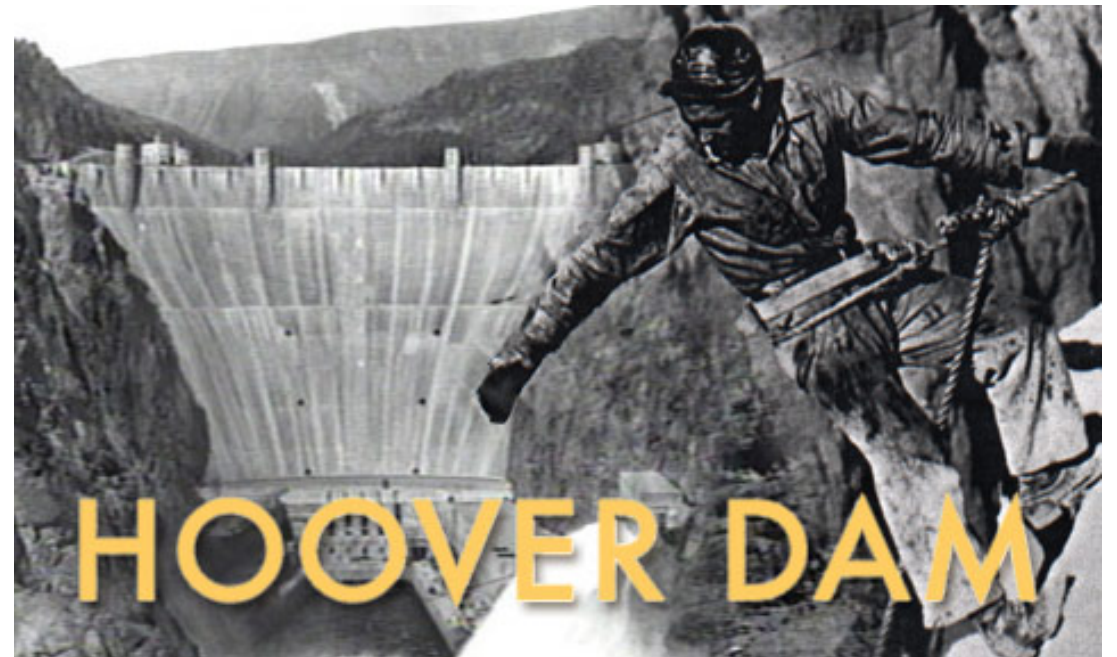


DAMs *as* development

- Ancient Europe Colonial World in Africa:
 - “the original World Bank members were often former colonial officers from Europe’s oversea offices” (Piper, 2015, p. 20);
 - “the World Bank continuing colonial attitudes are clearly demonstrated in its policies on water” (Piper, 2015, p. 20).
- Tennessee Authority Valley in USA:
 - DAMs as “central part of this vision of centrally planned development(...) Thousands of foreign planners, engineers and politicians [had] visited TVA (...) and returned to home to spread the gospel that one or more (...) DAM built by a centralized authority could quickly transform any regional economy from subsistence agriculture to agrobusiness and industry (McCully, 2001, p. 245).
 - TVA's example has huge impact in Brazil (Campolina, 2001).

DAMs as symbol

- Symbol of development and national power;
- Affirmation of human capacity to control the nature.
- For a large amount of people around the world: “perhaps more than any other technology, massive DAMs symbolize the progress of humanity from a life rule by nature and superstition to one where is ruled by science and superstition vanished by rationality.” (McCully, 2001, p. 237).



Credito da foto

DAMs as symbol



CESTE S.A

- This advertisement of Estreito DAM reminds us the discourse of dictatorship times in Brazil and the official ideology: “Brasil Grande”. At this moment, large development projects as Itaipu DAM and Transamazonica Road were symbols of national power, pride and capacity to control the tropical nature.

DAMs as conquest of territory and resources

- Displacement of large amount of people;
 - Lost of cultural diversity and traditional knowledge;
- Construction of “legal enclaves”: a displaced person is reduced to a bare life without any legal or civil or human rights:
 - Lost of cultural experiences - Boaventura de Souza Santos (2010): “Social fascism;”
 - Wasted lives – Zygmund Bauman (2004): displaced people as “social placeless;”
 - State of exception – Giorgio Agamben: “It is part of a wider range in governance in which the rule of law is routinely displaced (...) and people are increasingly subject to extra-judicial state violence” as Judith Butler define this book.
- It’s not an isolated event, it’s a constitutive part of expansion of global market in the Global South and symbolize the capacity of national state, national and global elites to conquer this territory to their “conception of society.”

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