

Urbanization in Brazilian Amazonia

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History of Amazonian Cities

Origins in the socioeconomic organization of the rubber trade: commercial and political centers

Decline in the 1920s and 1930s due to the rubber “bust”



Incipient Urbanization, 1940-1969

- II World War:
“rubber soldiers”
- Crisis in forest
extrativism
- Expansion of national
economy
- Urbanization and colonization



Rural-Urban Interface

- Emptying out of interior (“centro”) and clustering along riverbanks (“márgem”) and highways
- Growth of regional urban centers, capitols
- Rural-urban migration part of internal mobility and multi-sited strategies
(Padoch et al 2008; Barbieri et al. 2009)



Urbanization of the Brazilian Amazon

| State | Total population (Percent Urban) | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 1960 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 |
| Acre | 160,208 (21.2%) | 434,708 (55.0%) | 557,526 (66.4%) | 733,559 (72.6%) |
| Amapá | 68,889 (51.3%) | 267,576 (67.0%) | 477,032 (89.0%) | 669,526 (89.8%) |
| Amazonas | 721,215 (33.2%) | 2,213,966 (76.3%) | 281,2557 (74.9%) | 3,483,985 (79.1%) |
| Pará | 1,550,935 (40.6%) | 5,391,864 (56.0%) | 619,2307 (66.5%) | 7,581,051 (68.5%) |
| Rondônia | 70,783 (43.5%) | 1,125,118 (53.5%) | 137,9787 (64.1%) | 1,562,409 (73.6%) |
| Roraima | 29,480 (43.1%) | 135,956 (70.0%) | 324,397 (76.1%) | 450,479 (76.6%) |
| North Region | 2,601,519 (37.7%) | 9,569,188 (60.8%) | 11,743,606 (69.4%) | 15,864,454 (73.5%) |

Sources: IBGE Population censuses

Theories of Urbanization in Amazônia

- Urbanization disarticulated from planned development (Browder and Godfrey). Growth due to rural-urban migration, accelerated in the 1970s.
- In the cities, rural workers find urban jobs and become consumers of urban goods and services
- Cities function as: repositories of labor; to disseminate values such as consumerism; a locale of differentiation through social mobility (Bertha Becker)

Browder and Godfrey, Rainforest Cities (2006)

“Disarticulated urbanization” in Amazonia

- Heterogenous social space
- Irregular settlement systems due to local economic histories
- Urban growth disconnected from agricultural development
- Urbanization outpaces capacity for urban employment and services

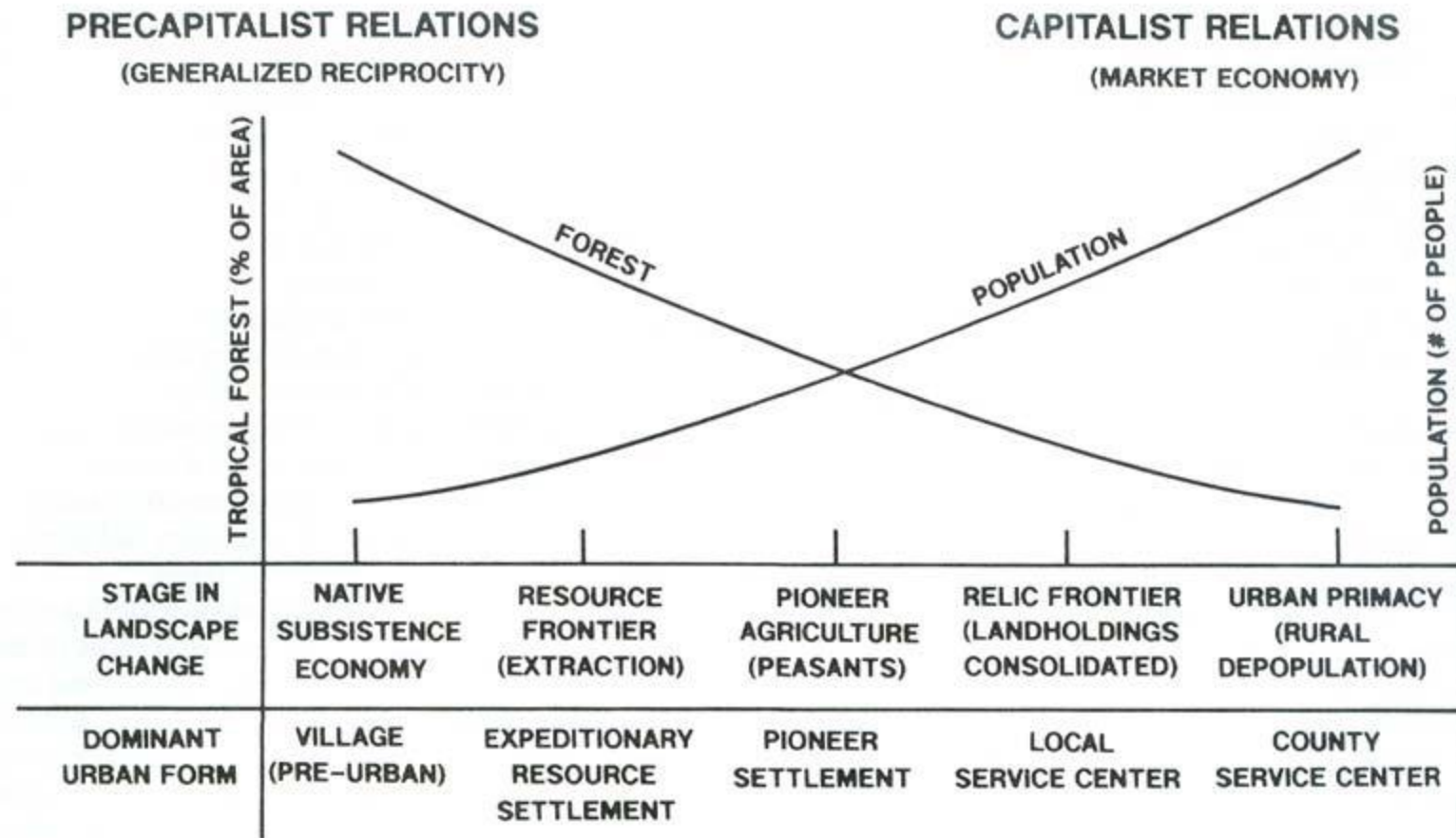
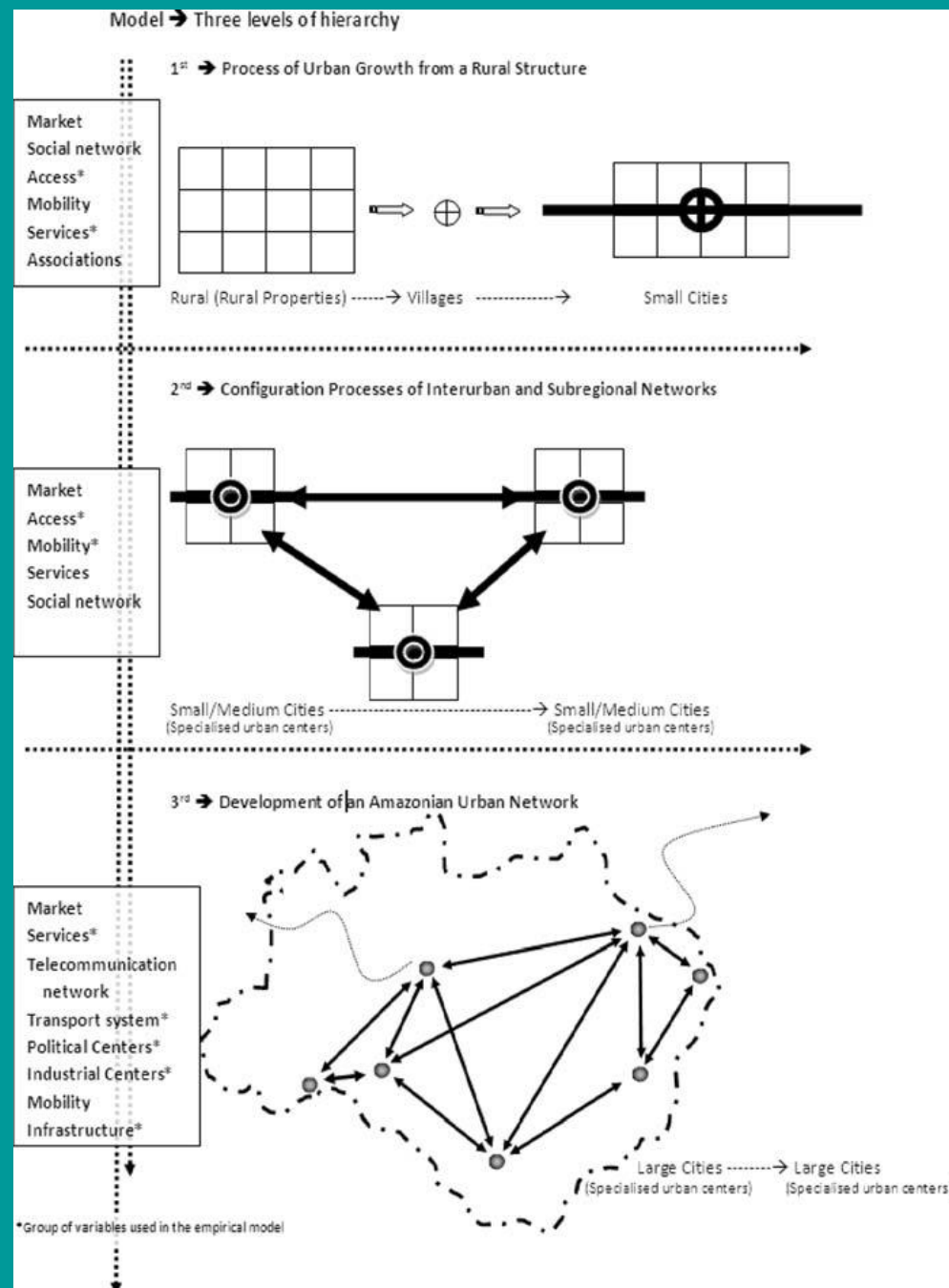


Fig. 2. Typology of settlements in Amazonia.

Source: Browder and Godfrey 1990

Guedes et al.
2009



URI: array of networks connecting urban agents and rural land users:

- Economic: product Trade and credit
- Political: parties and Movements
- Social capital: Religious, civic, filial

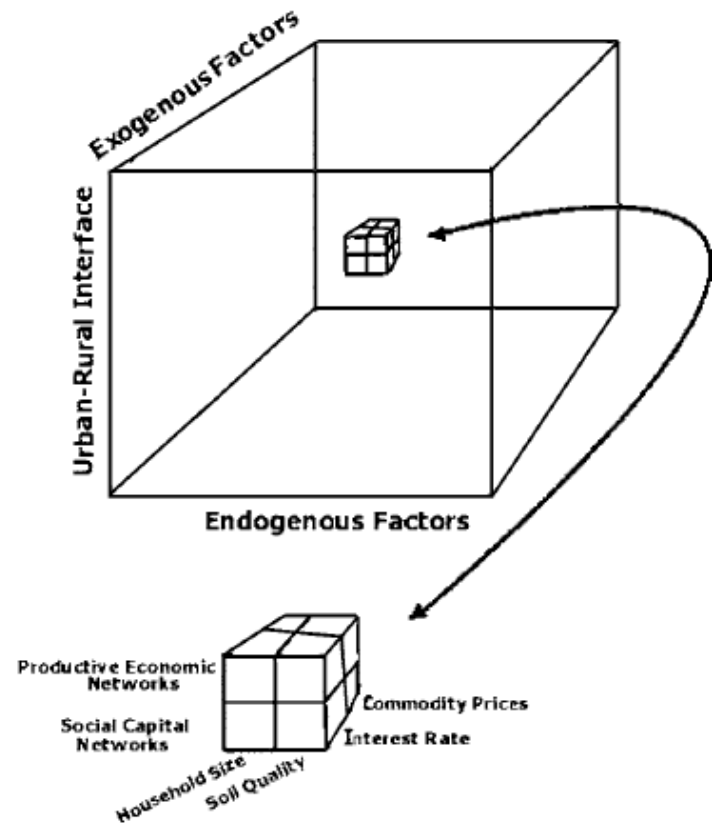


Figure 2. The urban-rural interface and landscape change, where “X” axis = endogenous factors, “Y” axis = URI, and “Z” axis = exogenous factors. Source: Adapted from Sanderson and Pritchard (1993).

URI as a “land-use decision space:”

- Interaction of economic, political, social flows with Household-level and macro-level factors
- Land use: sequential temporal process beginning with the decision of a rural producer to convert a forest area

Bertha Becker, Amazônia: Geopolítica na virada do III milênio (2004)

- Moving frontier no longer drives Amazonia
- New actors and interests, from traditional populations to international bureaucracies
- 3 principle components to Amazon development: progressive social groups; resumption of federal planning; trans-global connections (nature as commodity)

Bertha Becker, Articulando o Complexo Urbano e Complexo Verde na Amazônia (2009)

Central role of cities in “command” role of new Amazonian development articulating urban and green complexes, based on:

- Non-predatory use of natural patrimony
- Technologically-advanced services for inter-regional, international connections

Bertha Becker, Articulando o Complexo Urbano e Complexo Verde na Amazônia (2009)

New development model:

- Scientific-technical revolution to valorize standing forest to compete with agro-industry, cattle, and timber
- Export, and also generate domestic and local benefits
- Consolidate nodes and insert cities in networks

Bertha Becker, Articulando o Complexo Urbano e Complexo Verde na Amazônia (2009)

- Innovations to transform nature, generating production chains or environmental services
- Organize bio-production chains for cities in networks
- Manaus as command center for cities in the “forested heart;” Rio Branco a southern command center