



BIBLIOGRAFIA - ECUMENE: 1994-1999

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No âmbito da crítica e renovação da geografia cultural, iniciada no final da década de 1970 e plenamente efetivada no decorrer da década seguinte, emerge uma corrente que é conhecida como a nova geografia cultural. Trata-se de uma revisão metodológica e ampliação de escopo de uma geografia cultural que, particularmente nos Estados Unidos, sob a liderança de Carl Ortwin Sauer, teve, a partir da década de 1920, enorme importância.

A nova geografia cultural retrabalha e amplia a tradição saueriana incorporando o pensamento da geografia humanista, calcado nas filosofias do significado, e da geografia crítica, fundada no materialismo histórico. Outras influências, advindas de não-geógrafos, interessados, contudo, na análise cultural, também impregnam a nova geografia cultural.

A década de 1990 estaria madura para a criação de um periódico estritamente vinculado à nova geografia cultural. E isto é efetivado por dois dos mais ativos e influentes geógrafos, Denis Cosgrove e James Duncan, que fundam em 1994 o *Ecumene* – *A Journal of Environment – Culture – Meanings*. Representa um espaço próprio, além daqueles em outros periódicos de maior abrangência e do *Géographie et Cultures*, publicado em Paris, com o qual os novos geógrafos podem contar.

Os artigos dos 24 números publicados revelam, de um lado, uma continuidade temática com a geografia cultural anterior a 1970. Assim, a análise de

aspectos da cultura, da paisagem cultural e da ecologia cultural, estão presentes em numerosos artigos. Contudo, deve ser enfatizado que as temáticas clássicas são consideradas sob novas perspectivas. Por outro lado, ampliou-se o leque de temas abordados. Os artigos revelam, em realidade, o vigor da nova geografia cultural.

Nos trabalhos apresentados há alguns conceitos e noções chaves, definidores da natureza da nova geografia cultural. *Significado* é a palavra chave, central, associada a uma das bases filosóficas que ilumina a nova geografia cultural. Trata-se do significado da paisagem, dos prédios, monumentos, cemitérios, movimentos sociais, de obras literárias e cinematográfica, de expedições geográficas, etc. Identidade, representação, imagem, percepção, memória, simbolismo, difusão, 'encounter', lugar, meio-ambiente e natureza, são termos presentes nos mais de 100 artigos que abordam temas variados localizados em diversos momentos da História e nos diversos continentes.

Um sentido crítico aparece nitidamente na grande maioria dos artigos que, se eminentemente empíricos, estão teoricamente lastreados. Há também reflexões sobre a natureza e os problemas da geografia.

Ressalte-se que participam desta empreitada tanto geógrafos novos como antigos, os primeiros em grande maioria, indicando o interesse despertado por uma geografia cultural que se renova.

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