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## Cities and global trade in Brazil

Arroyo M.

*University of Sao Paulo*

Global trade has decisively influenced the configuration of national territories in Latin America, with the market considered a central element to this process. The opposite trade regimes – protectionism/free exchange – have been implemented in various forms and intensities within different historical periods and is still in force (even though it has taken on different facets). It regards a debate and an action that has as its starting point socio-spatial formation and therefore, presumes the existence of a determined model of country, nation and State. Global trade emerges as one of the elements of this model, which is directly linked to the stages of the productive process (production, distribution, exchange and consumption) and also associated to the politics of each socio-spatial formation. This could become one of the paths to understand how national urban systems are changing - in such features as economic specialization, growing role of services, investment in roads, railways, ports and airports. This paper presents a discussion about the influence of global trade in Brazilian urban system, specifically in the last decades, when significant changes were verified with the process of economic liberalization within the context of globalization. The Brazilian territory is composed of a contradictory unity that includes cities with high technic, scientific and informational density, such as cities where people and objects - and its dynamic - are conducted by a rationality that is less affect to the international division of work. Based on all this transformations, we focus our analysis on spatial circuits of production linked to foreign markets and their relationship with the urban system, contributing for the understanding of cities economic dynamics and their different degrees of internationalization. But capturing this movement also requires understanding the relationship between geographic concentration and the regional economic specialization, as well as the role of government and firms in the regulation of territory, be it economic or political, state- or private-controlled. Finally, this paper aims to point out topics for discussion on regional development and on the ways in which the process of spatial differentiation is manifested, which requires thinking in the territory as a whole, with its contradictions and possibilities.