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ALLIANCE OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

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The biggest changes in the way how the nations interact between them because of Second World War will be the new rules of territory management in the future. The difficulty of the single nations to reconstruct themselves with their own resources and the necessity of mutual control create in the nations of the world an integrative economic strategy to revival. The transfer of portions of national sovereignty to geographic and administrative superior levels produced the relocation of the power and the territorial government. This relocation of the power has created new economic schemes –local concessions and global deregulations- disrupting the traditional organization of the social system with unbalanced relationships between territory and population.

This new global and systematic organization makes deeper the differences between strong and weak nations. The recent international alliances made only between the strong nations placed power in a not dimensional level, in which the participation of the “small” nations was not contemplated. These small nations with a prominent colonial past did not understand the tactics of the international integration. The tactics in South America remains as a single national strategy while the universal tactics were a regional alliance strategy. Whether the global rules were created with an exclusion nature, the chance to be part it is not only because of the system itself, but is possible also because of the expertise of who want to be part of the system. Understand what does mean be part of the system is not clear yet. The way how the power is understood is so confused and makes us wonder: what really is an international integration and how deep it should be. The wrong conception of the South American nations about the integration usually convenient and temporary, have been the biggest obstacle to develop the South America’s potential to be one of the most power regions in the world. The potential is confirmed by the positive numbers of its economic growth (3,5% in the first semester of the 2012 year and the projections around 5% for the first semester of the 2013 year) that reveals how real is the possibility of the South America to reach this superior level of global power. The big fortune that compose the South American territory: 3,71% of global natural gas resources, 8,61% of global oil resources, 20% of fresh water of the second biggest ocean of the world, the biggest hydrological and tropical forest system of the world, six of the twelve South American countries are megadiverse, low inhabitant density (400 million people in a 17 million square kilometers surface – 1.7 Europe surface-) is strangely not enough to be part of the global power system.

The superficial intraregional alliances often marked by ideological differences – usually promoted by third actors- have been the principal characteristic of South America, where boundaries means more than simple administrative abstract lines. Since 1939 when the “Economic and Financial Consulting Committee” was created, the ideological differences between Andean Zone and Southern Cone were more than geographical differences, leading the first economic association attempt to failure: The first one, remarked for its North American compatibility and the second one, known as a scenery of popular manifestations, paradoxically with good relationships with “The Axis Countries”.

Even if the differences continuous today (as it should be) the need to deal with the global market with the same forces and instruments; has been caused many attempts to reach the regional integration in the continent: ALALC, ALADI, CAN, MERCOSUR and the most recent and complex continental association UNASUR. Despite all these difficulties to achieve the integration, often characterized by backward solutions regarding global changes, suggests us to think in alternative ways to realize it, remarking what are the causes of this historical failure.

The goal of this document (with its academic and technical limits) is to indicate the first steps for change forward the autonomy of the South American nations in the middle of this economic and social contemporary “free” system. The first part of this document starts with a general and critical study of South America’s international alliances taking into account all the cooperation processes, ending with a detailed review of the current state of them. The aim of this historical review is to understand the evolution of the integration process, trying to discover the reasons of this limited success. The second part of the document reassesses the meaning of concepts like *development* and the *infrastructure*, thinking in them as the columns for the construction of the integration. An integration based on democracy, and in which the human beings and its *habitat* must be the principal players.



Taking into account the distortions found previously about regional integration (until today very modest and very segmented) and the conceptual conceptions assumed; the third part of this document recognized the fundamental role of the territorial planning activity, and proposes an alternative planning process as an evolution strategy for the planning cognitive mechanism. This alternative planning process is thought as a communicative time process, in which the knowledge is constantly acquired from the experience and the theory. Subsequently was proposed a reading relationships scheme for infrastructure network of the biggest and most complex region of South America; Amazonia. Because of the global importance and heterogeneity of the elements that compose it, the region works as an excellent example of interregional cooperative planning. The Amazon Basin has an important influence in the global ecological and metrological cycles, demanding share commitment and immediate action.

The work evolved and described above was born of a personal interest as a South American citizen to find the answer to this question: Why South America, one of the richest and most powerful world territories, does not able to reach the world's levels of government, wealth and development? After this long but wonderful course, we could say that the main cause is perhaps an endogenous and historical resistance to the transnational integration of the continent. That resistance was motivated by territories "without" past that are now trying to create their present. The isolated attempts for regional integration were traditionally born of weakness to face the international markets and from a strong transoceanic indifference. Mistakes made at the constitution moments, together with a fleeting interest for integration, placed the regional integration goals in an abstract sphere of not achievable ideas. Since the mid-twentieth century, when the first regional integration attempts took place, the regional alliances were built only as a background because of the weakness of its goals (usually focused only on economics). In the same way as happened with ALALC, then known as ALADI, the integration was destroyed from the inside giving prevalence to bilateral and third agreements in which the region interests there were not consider. Most of time, the goals establish for regional integration registered positive values of economic growth, while the social freedom was worst.

This period of time was characterized only by sub-regional economic integration goals without any really macro or multilateral policies for get real solutions. The ideological differences already mentioned between north and south were the reason of the two most powerful sub-regional forces of South America: CAN (1969) and MERCOSUR (1991). The first one, CAN composed by Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, and the second one MERCOSUR composed by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela, the last one recently added.

Even if some similar difficulties and integration processes were experienced by the solidest international associations in other parts of the world, the big difference between them and South American experiences was that the conflicts in South America need much time to be solved or the solutions arrives too late. In fact, the free trade zone in ALADI, between the two sub-regional economic blocks, CAN and MERCOSUR; took twenty years to exist after the ALADI's constitution. At the same year (2003) the "Integral Social Development Plan" was introduced by the CAN, thirty four years after it has been propose. In the same way, the MERCOSUR took about fifteen years to institute it parliament, also if it was propose since *Treaty of Asuncion* (1991). In resume, South American association was historically signed by very slow and bureaucratic steps, caused of the low interest of the single governments to forget the differences of the past and to transfer some parts of its national sovereignty to open the doors at the regional territorial government.

"Integral Integration" how the CAN calls the way to make integration is only visible in our days, even if the traditional difficulties remain. For example, the UNASUR was created at 2003, but it just starts to work at 2011, when the last ratification constitution treaty was made by Colombia. In a few words, while universal transnational associations were well formed in the last thirty years, in the other hand, South America have took lot of time thinking about how to react to this global scenery.

Whether general South America integration framework seems discouraging, the hope around the creation of UNASUR makes us think in a possible real regional integration. The UNASUR is composed by all twelve South American countries with a new well done constitution architecture that overpasses papers and starts to touch the territory. In the 2001 with the "Initiative for the integration of the regional infrastructure of South America – IIRSA-", the continent recognized the physical condition of the territory, its inhabitants and the relationships between them. In that time, the importance of the participation of the capitals of the territory for its development was born. The new conception, leave behind the idea of automatic general development because only economic goals. Operating in this way the region of South America identifies the fundamental role of the complex planning in the progress of people development and their economies.

Despite this, and nearly two hundred years after the independence, the States of the South American do not have a clear identity, that together with their young governments gave to UNASUR a very problematic territory in which the materialization of the good ideas and projects is a very difficult challenge to overcome. Those territories socially and physically fragmented have very deep economic asymmetries, which grow parallel to the geographic scale. The traditional individualism, remarks the trend of no regional compromises with only optional agreements that obviously make impossible overcome the poverty and the lack of infrastructure of the entire continent.

It is time to stop the optional participation of each nation in the regional integration. Is time to reduce the space to the desire and open the sceneries for the strong decisional instances with the right professionals in charge. An example of good professionals in the right sceneries is the previously nominated IIRSA. This South American association leaved behind the traditional institution bureaucracy avoiding the replication of existing administrative levels, either national than regional. IIRSA prefers to involve the adequate ministers (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy ministers), the financial public and private stakeholders and the people who live in those territories, looking to achieve real share project plans. In the case of participation of the population the history repeats itself, the programs were created but never realized.

Until today all of regional association and integration attempts made to address global market have not taken the way expected. South American nations remain as a source where the economic capital flows but the social and environmental do not. It is not only the planning object that has problems to be planned in an integral regional framework, it is also the way and the instruments that does not have been rightly selected.

The almost totally territorial abstraction, not adapted professionals in charge, and the social absence (this absence is principally caused by the lack of appropriated institutions and instruments for claim rights and to fulfill the obligations) together with inhuman goals are the primary reasons of the regional integration failure. Even if the participation of the population is one of the essential elements of the process of planning and decision making, they were born with a great lack of knowledge reducing the cognitive fonts only to theoretical approaches where the phenomena sceneries were completely ignored.

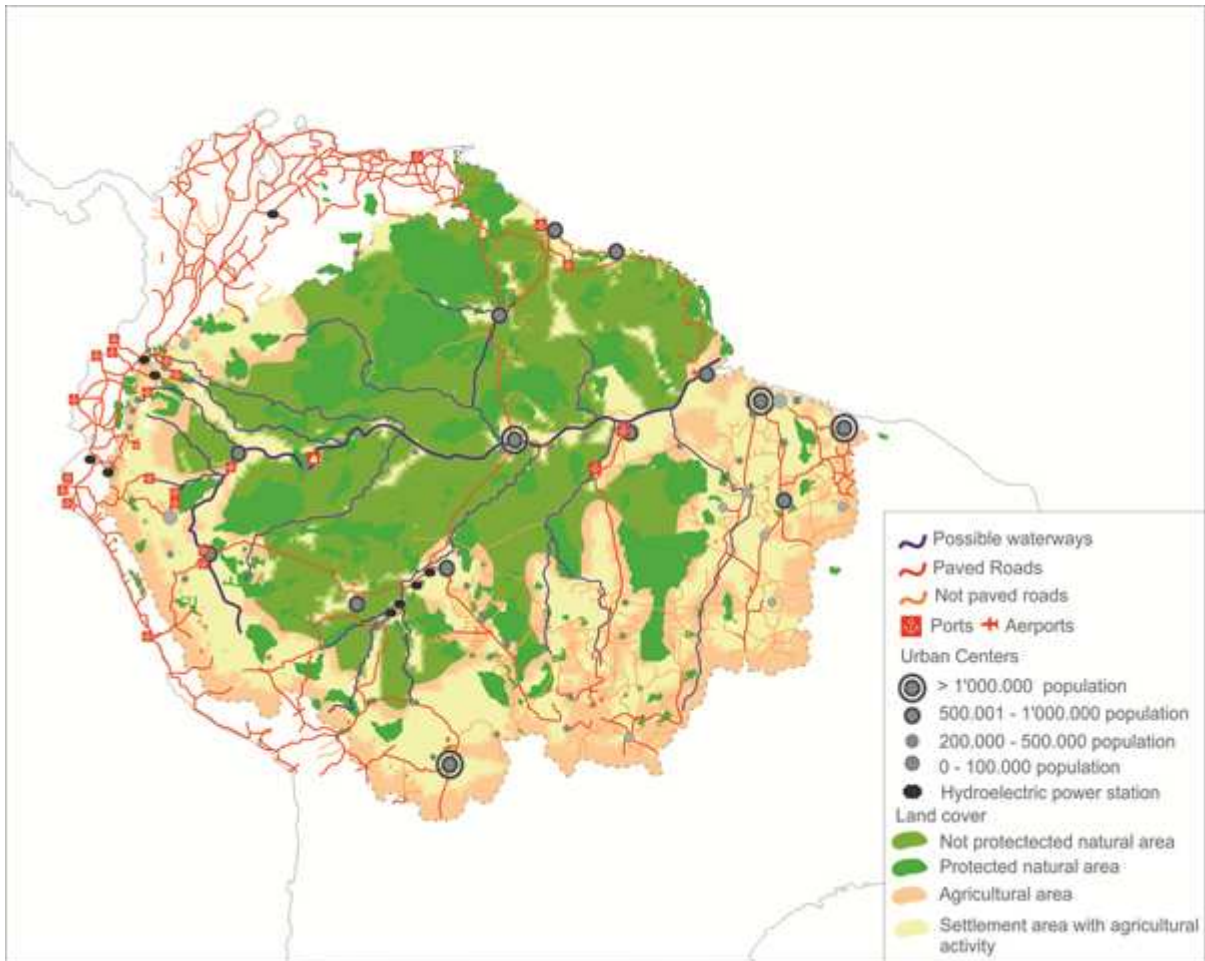
If the integration take into account more carefully the relationships between market-territory, market-people and territory-people using constant communicative practices between institutions and the phenomena players, the success will be almost guaranteed. The integration of the territories must be conscious of the primary role of the *territorial planning* as an instrument to harmonize the relationships within the territory and outside it, because it is in a *territory* where they occur. In resume, first for all the South American integration processes must to starts since adequate cognitive mechanism and adequate professionals in charge which recognize the participation and the commitment transfer from each single nation to the region as essential elements to success .

Until today, the general social schemes has been constructed from an unconscious conception of the physical nature of the territory, generating a completely vulnerable population without any sufficient, or at least, minimum conditions to evolve and create the appropriate conditions to preserve their own environment. The *state of benefit*, as has been defined *development* from the Human Development Report in 1990, must be the only goal and the base of any integration project for the territory. This aim will be achieved giving to the players of the territory the abilities and the adequate planed infrastructure to follow the goals. According to CEPAL, territorial development is only possible when the distribution infrastructure give to all people the goods that they need. The real link between people, territory and institution is the materialization of the policies, possible only through the infrastructure.

Despite of the general global interest in Amazonia, this particular study case is a wonderful example of determinative influence of the infrastructure in the project integration success. The first step to understand the region in this conceptual framework was a reading relationship infrastructure scheme. Because of the time and the academic objectives, the work was focus in the transport infrastructure. When the scheme was identified, the general continental problems were highlighted again. The influence of the institutions is undeniable but it absence too. The survival of the people and their natural environmental are in danger again. The management of the Amazonia is still national and remains tangential by the administration. The policies are only focus in "preserve" the nature leaving behind every social, culture or economic planning that finally are made by informal planners with no programmed or legally land plans. A big part of transport infrastructure decisions (especially roads) have been taken by economic players without any regulation.

The ACTO (*Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization*) is the only regional transnational organization for the Amazonia issues. Whether the ACTO was constituted with convergence and multilateral goals, its social and environmental responsibilities have not achieved the suspected success. As the same way as has happened in the entire continent, there are not appropriate experts to develop the work of planning and decision making. For example, its maximum representative body (the decision maker) lacks of direct participations of Ministers of Environment and/or Development of the territory, which are both only occasional partners. Taking into account the complexity and dimensions of the Amazonia, it is not difficult to understand that the region needs an especial stage to pursue the Amazonia proposes. The Amazonia needs a stage in which members are able to combine the different interest and the different players of the region. These members must have adequate cognitive abilities, being at the same time active players in the evolution of the territory, i.e. the appropriate Ministers, financial and economic actors, and without any doubt, inhabitants themselves.

In spite all of this, the success achieved for some institutions as the IIRSA helps to understand that the Amazonia is not still an empty or not accessible place. The Amazonia is now thinking as a connectable and penetrable area that has an important and fundamental participation in the development of the region and its population. A though more aware of the material condition of the territory and its population is the right way to use and enjoy the benefits of the cooperation through a real materialization of the integration policies. The solidarity between the different South American nations is the first right step to achieve higher levels of well-being for the society.



Understanding of the area

The transport infrastructure in the Amazonia is a hard work to do. There is a big dichotomy between preserve the environment (resources, nature and culture) and introduce a possible damaging infrastructure, forces to the entire continent to reconstruct the idea of integration, development and international cooperation.

Even if this document does not pretend to be a magic or fantastic solution, it is an objective to emphasize the problems afflicting the South American continent and its “desired” integration. It is my responsibility as a citizen of the world and as daughter of the South America that forces me since my profession to be part of the re-evolution of the people inhabiting in one of the most beautiful, richest and potentially powerful territory of the earth.

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