



**Work and the Land: Organization and Resistance in the Pirituba II Settlement  
Project in Itaberá and Itapeva / SP  
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**Introduction:** Bearing in mind that the development of agriculture in Brazil occurred to maximize the worth of land and income, by means of a class structure based on large properties, exploitation of labour, destruction of the environment and technological hegemony, typified by monoculture and the intensive use of raw materials, rather than small-scale production, polyculture and peasant-based farming, we feel it is necessary to understand the production dynamics established in the field and their consequences in the workplace. We are therefore seeking to make an in-depth study of public policy relating to Agrarian Reform through the achievements of the working class and the existence of resistance mechanisms among the peasantry insofar as they determine certain patterns of production and social reproduction, potentially dealing with the metabolic capital system, causing innumerable contradictions which have immense impact on the lives of those who work in the field. The general aim of this research is to systematize knowledge of the dynamic progress of capital metabolism in the Brazilian countryside, its impact on state action and, therefore, public policies related to Agrarian Reform in the south-west of the State of São Paulo, particularly the Pirituba II Settlement Project organized by the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST). **Methodology and Development:** The methodology of the research is based on the need to theorize militant practice by carrying out a theoretical study through a systematic review of the literature for content to do with the agrarian question, seeking to understand the social fabric that is the background of the Pirituba II Settlement Project. Identification of different types of work organization and characterizing the settlement's production was made from the Regional Co-operative files, which were systematized to get a better understanding of the role of public policies relating to Agrarian Reform in the settlement's structure and the organization of the workers living there. **Final thoughts:** Research shows that the development of the metabolic system of capital has been assimilated by the state and the Brazilian economy since its introduction. Production relations of a commercial agricultural nature for the export trade create numerous conditions of work which detach the workers from the means of production, directly impacting on public policies to be implemented in the field, substantially altering the lives of those who work there. There has been a process of creation dismantling and reforming the organizational structures of the settlement during the thirty years of its history pointing to the possibility of overcoming the established logic, ensuring the continuation of the peasantry on the land.

**Key words:** Work; land; social classes; Agrarian Reform.