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Interbreeding in Colonial Brazil: Identities and Metamorphoses

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Abstract

The colonization of Brazil brought with it the phenomena of creation, among which were new identities. I am referring to the Mamluks, descendants of white and Amerindian people. From this mixed reality, one may discuss dualities and hybridisms, taking into account ethnic crossbreeding and cultural mixture. Will this, however, be fully realized?

We analyze not only how the Mamluk is seen by others, in different spaces and times, according to the social, parental, political, and religious context. We have under observation the experience, the feeling, and the thinking of the Mamluk traveling between two cultural worlds. His plasticity and metamorphosis are intense.

In this regard, we comment on personal testimonies based on Inquisition documents, whether from the Visits to Brazil at the end of the 16th century or from the processes of the Lisbon Inquisition, notwithstanding institutional constraints.

Finally, moving forward in the historiographical debate, we seek to discuss the degree of consciousness of belonging or not belonging to an identity group.

Keywords: Mamluk, colonization, interbreeding, identity, metamorphosis