Theory in Action, Vol. 17, No. 4, October (©2024)
DOI:10.3798/tia.1937-0237.2417

Exile and Inner-Exile in Euclides da Cunha

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In this essay, I analyze the relationship between literature and exile from the point-of-view of the renowned Brazilian engineer and writer Euclides da Cunha (1866-1909). I chose this author for his unique use of the concept of *exile* pertaining to his own human condition, but also for his paradoxical perspective on the Amazonian rubber tappers during the 1900s. Da Cunha himself did not experience personal displacement in the conventional sense of being expatriated. However, his work and ideas often touched upon the notion of exile, especially in the context of cultural, emotional, and intellectual separation. As a writer, sociologist, and journalist in Brazil, Euclides da Cunha was always critical and provocative. He also held various academic and governmental positions, as his work continued to explore themes related to Brazilian society, history, and culture. And while not a traditionally exiled individual during two dictatorial regimes, his ideas and perspectives sometimes put him at odds with the predominantly intellectual and political norms of *fin-de-siècle* Brazil. His analytical and critical approach to Brazilian society, as evident in his magnum opus *Rebellion in the Backlands* (1902), challenged prevailing beliefs and led to conflicts with established authorities. His book exposed the brutality of the government's military campaign against Canudos and raised questions about the treatment of marginalized communities in Brazil. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2024 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

KEYWORDS: Exile, Inner-Exile, Displacement, Travel, Brazilian literature.

The notion of exile in the life of the renowned Brazilian engineer and writer Euclides da Cunha (1866-1909) began to emerge relatively early

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