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Absentee Landlords and Farm Management in Brazil During the 1960s

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Abstract

Abstract. Remote control of *land* and *labor* by absentee *landlords* joined with other supportive elements of *latifundismo* to reinforce the discontinuity between rural poverty and urban wealth and power. *Absentee ownership* was self-perpetuating, as returns from *latifundio agriculture* were channeled into more remunerative commercial ventures. Not restricted in its distribution to a particular region, the incidence of absenteeism generally rose with increasing farm size. Three-quarters of the *minifundiarios* resided on their properties against one-half of the *latifundiarios*, and administrator-operators were concentrated heavily on larger farms. The economic double-life of the landed 61ite helped to sustain traditional practices of *farm management* that reduced opportunities for improved efficiency and productivity in Latin America's largest agrarian sector.

Citing Literature

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