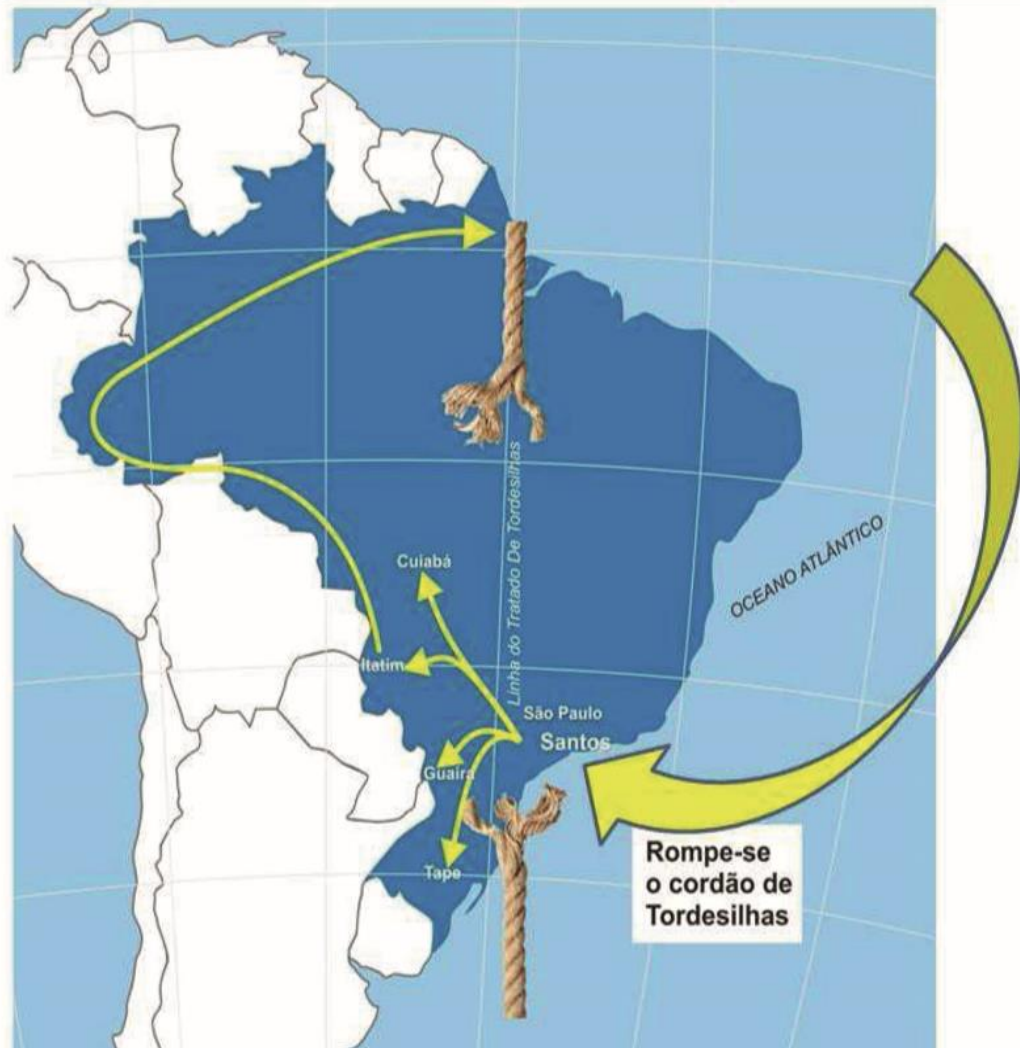


6_ EXTENT OF COLONIAL POWER

*“At sea, so much torment and so much damage (...)
On land so much war, so much deceit”.*
Os Lusíadas, C I, 106 (Luiz de Camões)

The extent of Portuguese colonial Power, with its ARMADA crossing seas that had never been sailed before and the BANDEIRANTES (*the so-called ‘flag-bearers’, who were in reality pioneers*), fixing stakes in lands that had never been explored before, is the central theme of this chapter, were Portuguese and Bandeirantes, in very few number, dared to break the “Cordão de Tordesilhas” (boundary established by the Treaty of Tordesilhas).

This is the playful sense of this poem which is inspired by the greatest epic poem of the Portuguese language (*Lusíadas*). Because it was in this way, or almost in this way, that they crossed the seas and the lands that form part of the Portuguese Americas. It was in this way, or almost in this way, with “such torment, damage, war and guile” that they dared to build this country the size of a continent. It was also like this, that they conquered and fortified the most important bays to the east of the imaginary line set by the Treaty of Tordesillas, south of the Equator _ Todos os Santos, Guanabara and Santos_, leaving at the sites several forts, blockhouse and fortresses, through which they



Tordesilhas line is broken. *Graphic summary of the role played by the bandeir ante expeditions.* (EME, v. 1, p. 225).