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This book is a joint effort between two research centres: the Centro de Estudos em Geografia e Urbanismo (CEGOT) – Centro de Estudos em Geografia e Urbanismo, Universidade de Coimbra, the Universidade de Porto (FEUP) – Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, and the Núcleo de Apoio à Pesquisa em Políticas Públicas, at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais.

In this book, a number of concepts, scales, times and human activities are analysed. The book addresses the future of population, the various scales of analysis, and the recurring themes. Regional, systems and urban studies are the headings under which chapters are organised. A wide range of themes are treated, including the role of the state, investments, regional integration, local development, mobility, transport, urban sprawl, environmental degradation, quality of life, housing, etc. The book gathers together 25 chapters written by geographers, sociologists, historians, and other researchers working at research institutions from various countries. This interdisciplinary book about the role of the state in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Questions of ‘development’ have been a central theme in general, and economics and geography in particular, in the