



E.book

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Chapter Ten

HYDROELECTRICITY IN PORTUGAL: ENGINEER MOBILITY, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPES OF TECHNICAL INNOVATION¹

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Introduction

The construction of dams in Portugal was directly linked to the country's hydrographic network and demanded a series of engineering-related expertise, particularly in the field of strength of materials and construction techniques. Aspects that were directly connected with the development of engineering education in Portugal, the transfer of technology and the creation of specific laboratories where it was possible to carry out studies and to test material resistance.

At first, it was necessary to contract foreign technicians to construct the great dams. Only in a second phase did the development of Portuguese engineering and the support of research and experimentation structures, such as the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (LNEC), allowed these works to be carried out by Portuguese engineers.

The construction of large dams resulted in a new landscape that was marked not only by the dam itself, but also by changes in the river course, along with the creation of a water reservoir. The technical expertise required by

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