Abstract
In the present article, we attempt to depict the conduct of Indians as important social agents in the socio-cultural formation of Minas Gerais. We demonstrate the presence of indigenous peoples of various ethnic origins in the wilderness and towns of Minas Gerais throughout the colonial period. We discuss the resistance of Indians in the eastern backlands, emphasizing conflicts with squatters and expeditions ordered to conquer the region. Finally, we examine the struggle for liberty of those Indians incorporated into colonial society as “administrados” and/or slaves.

Keywords
Ethnohistory, indigenous resistance, Colonial Minas Gerais