

21A.441
Discussion Questions:
The Kayapo and Central Brazil

How has the rubber trade affected the Kayapo? How does it differ from the North American fur trade? other extractive economies?

How does the situation of the Kayapo differ from that of the Kuna earlier in the 20th century? in terms of the frontier and the extractive economy? large-scale projects? the invasion of poor non-Indians? new kinds of organizations? the role of the national government?

What are the challenges of organizing resistance? How does it differ from what we have seen in North American and with the Kuna? in terms of generational splits? education and literacy? use of the media?

How does the native social structure affect resistance?

Does the Kayapo case have any lessons concerning the use of violence in resistance?

How do external threats become internal threats?

What do you see as the complications and opportunities in the relationship of native peoples with the environment?

How do stereotypes about Indians affect the situation of the Kayapo and their campaigns? How are the stereotypes a resource? a trap?

How do changes in the worldwide flow of information affect the Kayapo?

Is there something distinctively different about video as a media tool? What challenges and opportunities does it present?

In the triangle between Indians, NGOs, and the government, what is the downside of looking to the NGOs for help? Do we find similar triangles with the Kuna? Could you develop an argue supporting the position of the Brazilian government? What are the weaknesses in arguing for indigenous rights?