



# En 'Tierra de Caimanes': imaginarios geográficos, literatura ilustrada y tropicalidad del río Orinoco en las obras de Jules Crevaux (1883) y Jean Chaffanjon (1889) [

2023

text (article)

Analítica

**Objective/context:** In France's second half of the 19th century, magazines such as *Le Tour du Monde* and illustrated novels were used to promote geographical sciences and educational and political propaganda of the Third Republic and its economic interests based on the diaries of French travelers. This article analyzes the geographical imaginaries of the Orinoco from a case study of the publications of the travels of Jules Crevaux and Jean Chaffanjon. These travelers' characterization of the territory and its people in their texts and images framed this region within the depressed tropical areas, thus justifying the foreign exploitation of its resources. **Methodology:** This analysis is based on the publications of both travelers-in *Le Tour du Monde* articles and illustrated novels- and a corpus of images-published engravings, and photographs and sketches in the archive made in situ during the explorations-. Their analytical approach as historical sources and the visual and iconographic analysis is critical to understanding the production and dissemination of geo-geographical imaginaries about the Orinoco. **Originality:** Studies on these authors have been widely circulated in France but have been less discussed in South America. This study's relevance lies in applying the tropicality approach and the geographical imaginaries in informal French imperialism. The images of the Orinoco have been studied in the 18th and early 19th centuries from the illustrations and maps of authors such as Gumilla, Gilij and Humboldt; in this case, we tackle the most extensive corpus of published and unpublished images of this region and its massive circulation at the end of the 19th century, broadening the field of study of the territories in the nations' periphery. **Conclusions:** The geographical imaginaries produced from the illustrated press and later in the format of geographical novels circulated widely among the enlightened and general public, disseminating characterizations of this territory

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**Editorial:** 2023

**Tipo Audiovisual:** Chaffanjon Crevaux imaginarios geográficos literatura ilustrada Orinoco viajeros franceses siglo XIX Chaffanjon Crevaux Geographical imaginaries illustrated literature Orinoco 19th-century French travelers Chaffanjon Crevaux imaginários geográficos literatura ilustrada Orinoco viajantes franceses século 19

**Documento fuente:** Historia crítica, ISSN 0121-1617, N°. 88 (Abril), 2023, pags. 37-67

**Nota general:** application/pdf

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**Lengua:** Spanish

**Enlace a fuente de información:** Historia crítica, ISSN 0121-1617, N°. 88 (Abril), 2023, pags. 37-67

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