This dissertation has elected the “Frontier” as a privileged space and time unit wherein to review both the prevailing cultural values and the form and extent of the institutional structures available at the time as regards their influence on the emergence of organization in the USA west of the Mississippi river. Our research will also seek to describe the conditions that were present in Brazil along the same timeline and attempt to draw conclusions as to the similarities, differences and discontinuities we may find. Furthermore, we will look into the convergence / divergence aspects of both frontier experiences to try to find out whether civil society has been drawn progressively closer or further apart in both countries as regards common institutional and cultural characteristics.

Although we always tend to think of the ‘Frontier’ as a space, we should not forget that it can also be conceptualized as an ongoing cultural, institutional, organizational, legal and political experiment that will always be strongly influenced by the cultural, institutional and political background of the people who are carving it out. Moreover, insofar as the pioneers and settlers are not, at least at first, a homogeneous group due to their different backgrounds, there will always be an accommodation period to allow compromises to be worked out and implemented.
Whether such an accommodation will lead to convergent or divergent social organizations remains to be seen.

**Keywords:** Frontier; Wild West; Organization; Institutions; Culture; Convergence Thesis.