

## **ABSTRACT**

The present work analyzes the settlement and the formation of the illegal city in Belo Horizonte, from the standpoints of the production of irregular and clandestine settlements and the initiatives of land regularization conducted by the State. It is understood that both of these processes have been parallel throughout the history of the city, and are both fundamental for a proper understanding of the structuring of the municipality's space. In order to further comprehend this process, the actions of the State as one of its major agents are a central aspect in the analysis. We also discuss the role of the State in urban planning and public policy management as well as its interests in the occupation of urban space. Some other fundamental questions which permeate the reality of Brazilian cities are treated from this approach: the law and the illegalities, spatial segregation, the growth of peripheries, and sociospatial fragmentation and exclusion. Concerning the analysed situation, some advances in the conception and management of urban planning have been observed in Belo Horizonte. However, it is also perceived that some important gaps remain unfulfilled in the direction of a real construction of the right to the city.