



The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics

Robert M. Levine (Editor) , John J. Crocitti , Orin Starn (Series Editor) , John Crocitti (Editor) , Robin Kirk

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Bordering all but two of South America's other nations and by far Latin America's largest country, Brazil differs linguistically, historically, and culturally from Spanish America. Its indigenous peoples share the country with descendants of Portuguese conquerors and the Africans they imported to work as slaves, along with more recent immigrants from southern Europe, Japan, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Capturing the scope of this country's rich diversity and distinction as no other book has done—with more than a hundred entries from a wealth of perspectives—*The Brazil Reader* offers a fascinating guide to Brazilian life, culture, and history.

Complementing traditional views with fresh ones, *The Brazil Reader's* historical selections range from early colonization to the present day, with sections on imperial and republican Brazil, the days of slavery, the Vargas years, and the more recent return to democracy. They include letters, photographs, interviews, legal documents, visual art, music, poetry, fiction, reminiscences, and scholarly analyses. They also include observations by ordinary residents, both urban and rural, as well as foreign visitors and experts on Brazil. Probing beneath the surface of Brazilian reality—past and present—*The Reader* looks at social behavior, women's lives, architecture, literature, sexuality, popular culture, and strategies for coping with the travails of life in a country where the affluent live in walled compounds to separate themselves from the millions of Brazilians hard-pressed to find food and shelter. Contributing to a full geographic account—from the Amazon to the Northeast and the Central-South—of this country's singular multiplicity, many pieces have been written expressly for this volume or were translated for it, having never previously been published in English.

This second book in *The Latin America Readers* series will interest students, specialists, travelers for both business and leisure, and those desiring an in-depth introduction to Brazilian life and culture.

The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics Details

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From Reader Review The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics for online ebook

Kevin Jones says

Great collection of works which provided me with a better understanding of Brazil as a whole. Great intro text.

Chris King says

This book is a collection of essays and entries covering (as the title indicates) not just history, but culture, politics, and other aspects of Brazilian society.

It is a great overview and cross-section that gave me a lot of insight into the Brazilian experience.

Lucas says

Not as good as the Argentina Reader, by a long shot. You have to work pretty hard to make Brazil come off as bland, but I guess that was a big part of the neoliberal era that produced this.

Bill Pritchard says

I read The Brazil Reader - History, Culture, Politics - edited by Robert M. Levine and John J. Crocitti, as an introduction to the inner workings of Brazil thru the lens of its History. The book does an excellent job of introducing the non-Brazilian - in small, easy-to-read bites, to this diverse and interesting culture and people. The work begins with about 60 pages on Brazil's Origins, Conquests and Colonial Rule (from 10 sources). Next it looks at the Imperial and Republican Brazil period for about 60 pages (15 sources). Then a look at the concept of Slavery and its Aftermath is covered over about 20 pages (7 pages). The Vargas Era - after an important Military Leader, covers approximately 80 pages and contains 19 sources. Section 5 is on Seeking Democracy and Equity, which consumes 70 pages with information from 15 sources. Section 6 takes an interesting look at Women's Lives over 50 pages with information from 11 sources). Section 7 takes on Race and Ethnic Relations - over 40 pages with 10 sources. Section 8 is on the Realities of Brazil today covering approximately 60 pages with 14 sources. Finally, Section 9 is Saudades - 40 pages from 9 sources.

The Brazilian culture, with its combination of impressive population growth and government-directed industrialization has made Brazil primary - if not dominant - among Latin American nations. It is Brazil's singularity - and its character, self-perceptions, and transitions, that provide the central theme of this book.

It's not meant to be all-inclusive. It is not an anthology of Brazilian History. The Brazil Reader takes traditional viewpoints and newer approaches to help us non-Brazilians better understand their past. If you are heading to Brazil (like I am), it is a great starting point. Recommended.

AskHistorians says

These are a series of country studies that provide a valuable overview of various Latin American countries. They use both primary and secondary sources by eyewitnesses and important scholars respectively to illuminate key periods of each country's history. They also include a trove of images, maps, and fine art. Each volume focuses on a single country. Currently, Duke has published readers about the Dominican Republic, Chile, Paraguay, Guatemala, Ecuador, Perú, Costa Rica, Cuba, México, Argentina, and Brazil
