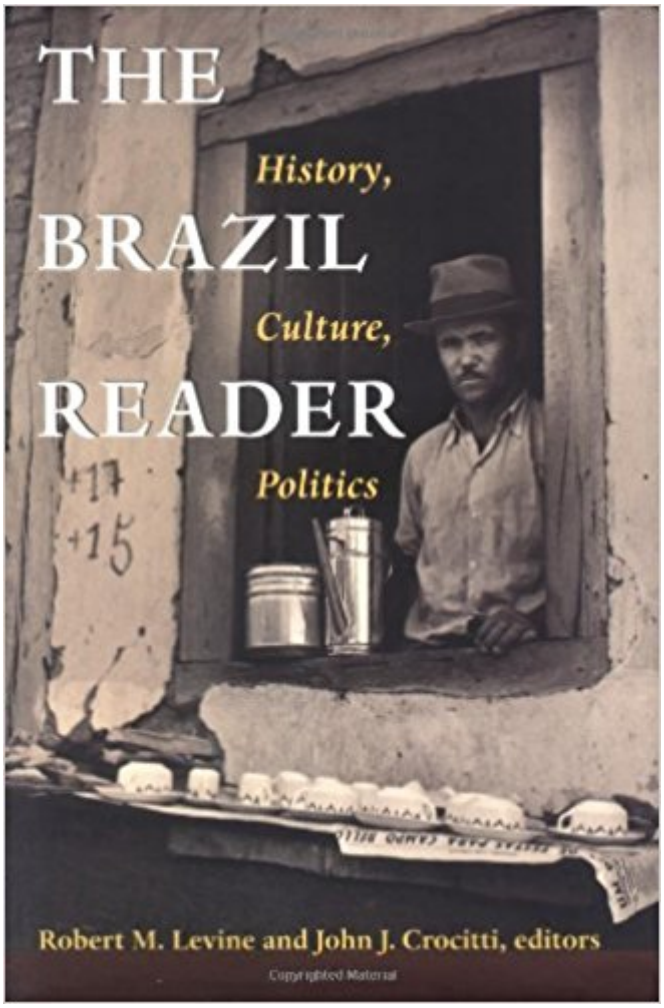
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The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)



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Synopsis

Bordering all but two of South AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s other nations and by far Latin AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rich diversity and distinction as no other book has doneÃ¢â ¬â •with more than a hundred entries from a wealth of perspectivesÃ¢â ¬â •The Brazil Reader offers a fascinating guide to Brazilian life, culture, and history.Complementing traditional views with fresh ones, The Brazil ReaderÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 realityÃ¢â ¬â •past and presentÃ¢â ¬â •The Reader looks at social behavior, womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 accountÃ¢â ¬â •from the to the Northeast and the Central-SouthÃ¢â ¬â •of this countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“A stellar collection of texts on Brazilian history and contemporary life. No ordinary reader, this volume goes below the surface to introduce an American audience to BrazilÃ¢â ¬â„¢s complexities and diversity.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Foreign AffairsÃ¢â ¬Å“Duke University Press has just brought out . . . the closest thing to a voyage around Ã¢â ¬Ëœthe great green elbowÃ¢â ¬â„¢ that one of its novelists called his rich and varied country. The book shimmers with every type of essay, historiography, and literary tidbit.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Rain City ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Whether ingested in short sips or long draughts, The Brazil Reader has an accumulative weight, breadth, and durability. . . . [I]tÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a book that offers an intelligent and up-to-date survey of a vital and vibrant country. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hard to imagine how we were able to get along without it.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Bondo Wyszpolski, BrazzilÃ¢â ¬Å“The Brazil Reader is simply indispensable. . . .Ã¢â ¬Â• - Julio CÃƒÂ©sar Pino, Hispanic American Historical ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“The Reader cannot fail to impress. . . . The specialist, the activist, the artist and the anonymous all find a space in The Brazil Reader, creating what the editors describe as a Ã¢â ¬Ëœbalance of voices.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ In summary, for the well-heeled scholar or the curious undergraduate The Brazil Reader will present possibilities, challenges and thought-provoking reading.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Jane-Marie Collins, Bulletin of Hispanic StudiesÃ¢â ¬Å“What gives The Brazil Reader its special cachet is freshness, sensitivity, and empathy in its diversity of perspectives on twentieth-century Brazil, from the top down, from the bottom up, and from somewhere in the middle.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Stanley J. Stein, Princeton UniversityÃ¢â ¬Å“A worthy successor to the pioneering Peru Reader, this volume provides a comprehensive guide to BrazilÃ¢â ¬â„¢s history and culture from the Portuguese colonial past to the postmodern present. Defty crossing disciplines and integrating elite and popular realms, The Brazil Reader is certain to please both the serious student and the general reader.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Gil Joseph, Yale UniversityÃ¢â ¬Å“The Brazil Reader is simply indispensable. . . .Ã¢â ¬Â• (Julio CÃƒÂ©sar Pino Hispanic American Historical Review)Ã¢â ¬Å“The Reader cannot fail to impress. . . . The specialist, the activist, the artist and the anonymous all find a space in The Brazil Reader, creating what the editors describe as a Ã¢â ¬Ëœbalance of voices.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ In summary, for the well-heeled scholar or the curious undergraduate The Brazil Reader will present possibilities, challenges and

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"What gives "The Brazil Reader" its special cachet is freshness, sensitivity, and empathy in its diversity of perspectives on twentieth-century Brazil, from the top down, from the bottom up, and from somewhere in the middle."--Stanley J. Stein, Princeton University

I read a dozen essays from the book before our 3-week stay in Brazil and continue to read much more after our return. "Reader" captures a variety of perspectives on the country from the music/arts theme to political history and racism. Published in 1999, it does not include current events. No matter. One of the best essays is "The Vargas Era" which summarizes a period of political status quo even though Vargas made attempts to change his country before his suicide.This is not a travel guide, not a take-with (it’s heavy, 500+ pages), so it’s best read at home to prepare for the lively experience of meeting Brazilians and appreciating their culture(s) and history. Some knowledge of the colonial influence in the country’s formation goes a long way to help travelers understand current conditions. Slavery was abolished in 1888, and the state of Minas Gerais formulated laws that regulated beggars in 1900. Coincidence?Travelers to the beaches may not need to delve into the culture, but those who want a fuller experience of Brazil will enjoy this book.

This book is a collection of short essays on Brazil. I found at least half to be quite interesting, though I probably skimmed about a quarter of them. Many of the essays frequently give a first hand account of life as a small farmer, favela resident or fisherman in Brazil. These essays capture and explain to the English reader the hopes, values and experiences of actual Brazilians. Most English readers gain their understanding of Brazil only second hand through academics or journalists. This book offers a fresh, reality based perspective on Brazil for English readers who haven’t learned about

Brazil outside of academia, the New York Times, or the beaches of Rio.

Excellent!

An excellent collection of primary sources from Brazilian history. It strangely skips entire decades and periods which is its only shortcoming.

The book is great thus far, interesting stories about Brazil's history. Can't wait to read the rest as soon as i get some freetime.

Great book for learning and understanding the culture of Brazil.

This is a great book for learning about Brazil from the earliest days to today. The selections are unusually interesting and varied. As a Brazilian, this book brings me "saudades."

This book is a page-turner. As a Brazilian living in the States, it brings back strong memories. A very nice gift.

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