



The Brazilians

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A country warmly hospitable and surprisingly violent, physically beautiful, yet appallingly poor—these are the contrasts Joseph Page explores in *The Brazilians*, a monumental book on one of the most colorful and paradoxical places on earth. Once one of the strongest market economies in the world, Brazil now struggles to emerge from a deep economic and social crisis, the latest and deepest nose-dive in a giddy roller-coaster ride that Brazilians have experienced over the past three decades. Page examines Brazil in the context of this current crisis and the events leading up to it. In so doing, he reveals the unique character of the Brazilian people and how this national character has brought the country to where it is today—teetering on the verge of joining the First World, or plunging into unprecedented environmental calamity and social upheaval. Not since Luigi Barzini's *The Italians* has a society been so deeply and accurately portrayed.

The Brazilians Details

Date : Published September 6th 1996 by Da Capo Press (first published 1995)

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Author : Joseph A. Page

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From Reader Review The Brazilians for online ebook

aimee says

Apparently a must-read before I go to Brazil. I eagerly await it from Amazon.

23/11/2009 - it hath arrived! It's next up once the currently reading are read.

11/12/2009 - started it last night on the plane back to perth and was instantly hooked. writing style is engaging and informative. finding it already easier than "black lamb and grey falcon"

Shirley says

Learn a little about Brazil, its history, traditions, societal structure, food, etc in a very accessible way.

Suzanne Philp says

Definitely an interesting read, although a bit out of date now. Looking forward to checking out the country for myself!

Deanna Brauer says

Wow, are Brazilians a complex people. I thought I had an open mind set about the world but reading this book made me realize that it's only so big. I have so much to learn. One thing that has been interesting as well is reading about the differences and similarities in slavery between North and South American and how that manifested into different forms of racism.

Ben says

A good introduction to Brazilian culture and history - helping to understand a bit of what makes this country and people unique.

Josh says

I really liked this book. As an outsider who has spent a lot of time in Brazil myself it definitely conjured memories of similar experiences and observations I had. It is definitely told from an American perspective, but Mr. Page obviously has a deep affection for Brazil and its people. I would be interested in what a

Brazilian thinks about this book.

Chris King says

This book gives a great overview of customs and events that portray and shape Brazilian culture. I have a multi-cultural family (my wife is Brazilian) and this has given me insight into her background and way of looking at things.

If you have relationships with people from Brazil, or just want to learn more about the interesting culture of Brazil, this book will enlighten you.

Weavre says

I'll read this soon, just didn't get into it right now. It does look good, though.

Karl Reinhard says

I read this book just before my first extended trip to Brazil (6 months) in 1997. I thought it was an excellent book. However, as the weeks passed and as I visited more more places in Brazil, I could not see much overlap in Page's perspective on Brazil and my own. I reread the book in Brazil and found that he missed the complexity of coevolved cultures and interdependent societies that make up the Brazil I know. Since then, I have lived for two years in Brazil and although some passages ring true to some extend, I think that Page's focus on "haves and have nots" is out of date.

Amanda says

Recommended to me by one of my Middlebury Portuguese language professors, "The Brazilians" is a solid overview of a range of topics -- history, economics, culture, film, and literature -- through 1995. I'd recommend it to anyone who would like a general overview of all things Brazilian.

Though the author does an astute job of communicating the cultural complexity of Brazil, sometimes his generalizations are problematic (e.g., analysis of anal sex and its further relationship to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, p. 66). To his credit, the author does state that the book is filtered through the lens of his own personal experience, so I would just like to remind readers of this and caution them to remember it when they encounter generalizations, especially those that are not supported by any source material in the selected bibliography.

A lot has happened in Brazil since the mid 1990's and so this book left me longing for a more current analysis of the social, political and economic happenings. Recommendations anyone?
