

Study Resources

Northeast Brazil is the old colonial part of the country and the one most affected by the 350 years of slavery. It is very poor and most of the Brazilian descendants of African slaves still live there. Brazil, a country as large as the continental United States, is rich in natural resources and has a wide variety of physical and climatic differences. Some of the resources listed below were used by Network members as they prepared for their two work-study trips (Mutirões) to Salvador. Other resources have been added to that list.

Most of the resources listed below were compiled by June Ramage Rogers, and we are indebted to her for the hard work in assembling the list and in sharing them with us.

Non Fiction Books (Most are available via Amazon)

The Brazilians by Joseph A. Page (Perseus Books, 1995) is an excellent introduction to all aspects of Brazil. The best place to begin for someone knowing very little about the country.

Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil by Nancy Scheper-Hughes (University of California Press, 1992) offers the best introduction to the everyday life of the poor in northeast Brazil. It is a disturbing book, but is required reading for anyone interested in understanding the work of ITEBA.

A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness by Rachel E. Harding (Indiana University Press, 2000) discusses the history and influence of African religions on the development of religion in Brazil. Candomblé was based on the religious beliefs of the slaves and is still widely practiced across Brazil.

Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprisings of 1835 in Bahia by João José Reis (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993) discusses slave revolts in Brazil (which were far more common than in the U.S.) with special attention to the 1835 revolt in Salvador.

Benedita Da Silva: An Afro-Brazilian Woman's Story of Love and Politics, as told by Medea Benjamin and Maisa Mendonca (Food First Books, Oakland, CA). It has a forward by Jesse Jackson and a wonderful historical timeline from the time of Getulio Vargas.

Child of the Dark by Carolina de Jesus (Dutton, New York, 1962).

Brazil: A Gracious People in a Heartless System by Zwinglio Dias and Joyce Hill. Available through Friendship Press along with a Study Guide, Map and Facts and a video, "Brazil: A Faithful Response".

Pentecostalism and the Future of the Christian Churches in Brazil by Richard Shaull and Waldo Cesar (Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000).

The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest by Andrew Revkin (Published by Houghton Mifflin Co.)

When God's People Travel Together, Volume 3: Bible Studies on Mission by Alice Winters (Available through Presbyterian Distribution Service). Examples focused on Columbia but relevant to Brazil and all of Latin America.

Rebellion in the Backlands by Euclides da Cunha (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1944) [Os es Serto - the original version in Portuguese - is considered Brazil's greatest epic. It is a valiant cry of protest against oppression of the weak by the strong and a wise and compassionate record of a shocking totalitarian crime perpetrated against a handful of backwoodsmen in a little-known corner of the world.

The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, and Politics edited by Levine and Crocitti

Terra: Struggle of the Landless by Sebastiao Salgado

Brazil: Five Centuries of Change by Thomas F. Skidmore

Secret Dialogues by Kenneth Serbin (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000). About military and church relationships during the dictatorship.

Insight Guide to Brazil by Jane Ladle, Project Editor (Langenscheidt Publishers, Inc.)

Novels

Jorge Amado has written many novels about the north and northeast of Brazil. Some very popular ones are: *Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon, Dona Flor and her Two Husbands, War of the Saints, and Showdown.*

Brazil by John Updike (Ballantine Books, 1996). Jovelino Ramos says it is a great novel. It deals with the issues of poverty, race relations, street children, student organizations, modern economy, politics and romance.

An Invincible Memory by João Ubaldo Ribeiro (Harper and Row 1989) An engrossing panoramic historical novel which deals with the founding of the island of Itaparicain the middle of All Saints Bay opposite the city of Salvador in Bahia.

War at the End of the World by Vargas Llosa.

Articles

"Brazil's Tenacious Presbyterians" by Sherron Kay George (Presbyterians Today, May 2003).

"Carnival" by Sherron Kay George (Insights, The Faculty Journal of Austin Seminary, Fall 2003).

"Feminist Theology in Brazil" by Rosangela Soares de Oliveira in Women's Visions edited by Ofelia Ortega (World Council of Churches). Especially helpful in understanding how Afro-Brazilian women "do theology".

"Brazil's Landless Workers Movement" (Americas Program, Interhemispheric Resource Center, April 2003). This is available in PDF by clicking [here](#).

Zakaria, Fareed. "And Now, Global Booby Prizes" (Newsweek, September 29, 2003, p. 39).

Greider, William & Kenneth Rapoza. "Lula Raises The Stakes" (The Nation, December 1, 2003, p. 11).

Hernandez, Andreas. "The Collapse In Cancun And The Transformation Of The Global System" . This is an analysis of the September 2003 World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, written by a member of the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University.

Videos

Brazil: A Faithful Response, available through Friendship Press.

Mutual Mission in a New Millenium: The ITEBA Story, available through Presbyterian Distribution Service, PDS 70-350-00-720.

Movies (Most are available via Amazon)

Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands
Cidade de Deus (The City of God)
Black Orpheus (Dated, but still wonderful)
Central Station
Me, You, Them
Pixote
Four Days in September
The Emerald Forest
The Green Wall

Drama

Pagador de Promessa by Alfredo Dias Gomes, translated by Oscar Fernandez (Available in English through the ITEBA Network - also a movie in Portuguese with sub-titles). Excellent to explain the religious and cultural context of Northeastern Brazilians.

Globalization Resources

See Educational Resources on Economic Globalization, Compiled by the Presbyterian Hunger Program of the PC(USA)

Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible, A Report of the International Forum on Globalization (Berrett-Kohler Publishers, San Francisco)