

*The Brazilian Economy: Its Growth and Development.* By WERNER BAER. Columbus, Ohio: Grid Publishing, 1979. Map. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 239. Paper.

*The Brazilian Economy: Its Growth and Development* is a useful book. It draws on Professor Baer's twenty years of experience studying Brazil's contemporary scene. Baer is an economist who writes with great clarity; this short book reflects his background. Baer mainly refers to sources written by economists, rather than by historians; the book's main focus is on the current scene. A brief synopsis of Brazilian economic history before World War II occupies the first fifty-six pages of the book. The postwar period to the present occupies the next fifty-nine pages.

Baer's strong contribution is his presentation of very recent data and cogent arguments in his chapters on trade and foreign investment, the extended public sector, inflation and indexing, regional imbalances, and agricultural growth and stagnation. Baer argues that market forces have led to the improved relative income position of skilled workers, compared to workers who are unskilled or live in the Northeast, and that market forces have forced the government to abandon part of its "indexing" program, which was a way of tying wages and other items to price indices, and, therefore, of determining income distribution. Government moves to gain long-term equality have not much softened short-term inequality. On the foreign trade scene, the rise in imported oil costs has led to the government's huge foreign debt, and Brazil, therefore, has focused on import substitution once again, even more than on export promotion. The Brazilian government has joint ventures with private multinationals, somewhat defusing the explosive issue of the role of multinationals in dynamic growth sectors. The government accounts for 22.5 percent of gross product, and has 37 percent of the assets of the 5,113 largest firms in Brazil, while powerfully influencing money and credit. Baer stresses that Brazil is therefore an economy of ad hoc state capitalism whose operations are dictated by need, rather than by any one theory.

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*Quebra-Quilos: Lutas Sociais no Outono do Império.* By ARMANDO SOUTO MAIOR. São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1978. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 213. Paper.

From November 1874 to January 1875, there occurred in several parts of the Brazilian Northeast a popular movement that took the form of

smashing the weights and measures of the newly adapted metric system. If the movement was in the next hundred years mentioned at all, it was to be dismissed as senseless destruction by a mob of fanatic clowns (to use that word in its primary sense).

Since historical research is largely guided by the impact of fashionable ideas, it was inevitable that, once the seminal studies on “the crowd in history” and “social banditry” by Messrs. Thompson, Rudé, and Hobsbawm became widely read, the Quebra-Quilos would be disinterred for further investigation. Research by several historians, Brazilian and North American, has resulted in at least two articles on the subject. Now, Armando Souto Maior has expanded his article into a book.

Souto Maior’s study draws on very considerable research into a wide range of sources—national and state archives, notarial records, press, and pamphlets. As a result, this book provides fresh insights into several important aspects—for example, the role of *recrutamento* (“enforced service in the military”)—of the Quebra-Quilos revolt as a social and an economic movement.

The work lacks, however, the strong conceptual framework necessary to integrate the materials used into a systematic analysis of the revolt. The author describes the theories of Hobsbawm and others, but seems curiously unable to utilize them effectively. As a consequence, the book is fragmented—a collection of related and often overlapping essays. In fairness to the author, who makes no great claims for his study (p. 1), his book does succeed in showing that the Quebra-Quilos were not exceptional, but part of a continuum of social protest. Nonetheless, the book does not do justice either to the revolt itself or to the considerable research it embodies.

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*Tinha que Ser Minas.* By CARLOS LUÍS GUEDES. Preface by JOSÉ DE MAGALHÃES PINTO. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Nova Fronteira, 1979. Pp. 305. Paper.

Guedes writes that he lacked the stupidity of other generals and therefore appreciated from the start of Goulart’s presidency (1961–64) that Brazil was about to fall victim to enslaving communism, a prospect favored by the “terrible progressive wing” of the clergy (p. 125) and by those who invaded properties all over Brazil, frequently massacring landlords. Readers who mistakenly believe, as does Guedes, that the mas-