

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Outside of academia, anyone embarking on a new enterprise—a software startup, a housing development, a widget factory—is likely to incur a certain degree of financial indebtedness. But we academics deal in a different currency; in the course of doing research, we usually accumulate intellectual, not financial, debts, and our moral economy dictates that we repay what we owe with our own peculiar bitcoin: profuse expressions of gratitude in the book's acknowledgments. Having run up an enormous bill over the many years during which I have researched and written this book, in the next few pages I will try to acquit myself honorably and metaphorically reimburse the many friends and colleagues to whom I am, in truth, forever indebted. But I worry that there will be some people who, early on, suggested sources or offered ideas whose origin I've long since forgotten; it's even possible that, against my better scholarly judgment, I've tricked myself into thinking that I came up with a particular idea all by myself. The eminent sociologist Robert K. Merton, apparently disgruntled that his colleagues were not citing him quite enough, termed a larger-scale version of this process "obliteration by incorporation"—by which he meant the way certain ideas get so embedded in the disciplinary "common sense" that they become untraceable to their original "inventor." Unlike Merton, I'm inclined to regard ideas as emerging from a collective process, not one individual person's "genius," so I'm hoping I can count on the generosity of the academic community and assume that my colleagues will not feel too "obliterated" should I inadvertently neglect to thank them for some excellent idea or suggestion that richly deserves to be acknowledged but whose origins have been rendered obscure by time.

There are three people who have been exceptionally supportive at various points in my ongoing struggle to finish this book, and to whom I owe an espe-

cially large debt. Maria Lígia Prado, the most wonderful friend and colleague one could ask for, suggested many sources, read the entire manuscript, and made many interventions that have helped me conceptualize what the book should be. Mary Kay Vaughan, my colleague for six years at the University of Maryland, has been an inspiration and a source of encouragement at every point along the way. And I can't begin to say how much I appreciate James Woodard's help and solidarity, made all the more meaningful by the fact that he would probably interpret much of the material I use in a substantially different way. Nonetheless, he has directed my attention to many sources, suggested any number of documents, and subjected the manuscript to the most incisive reading imaginable. Even an attentive reader will lose count of the number of notes in which I thank James for suggesting a particular source or bringing a specific problem to my attention.

Several colleagues in São Paulo have been extremely helpful, again including some who I know are skeptical about my interpretation. I want especially to thank my dear friend Maria Helena Capelato, whose own work on the 1932 uprising, the *paulista* press, and paulista identity has been essential for this study. Tania Regina de Luca, Vavy Pacheco Borges, and Michael Hall have all offered insights from their own work, and thoughtful comments about mine. Among the many other scholars who have shared their work and suggestions, I would like to thank Silvio Luiz Lofego, Cássia Chrispiniano Adduci, and Antonio Celso Ferreira. I hope it is apparent to readers how much I have relied on and remain beholden to their scholarly research.

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I began this book while still at my longtime academic home, Stony Brook University, did the last round of research and started the writing while at the University of Maryland, and finally finished while at my current academic home, the history department at New York University. In each place I had the great privilege of working with colleagues and graduate students who kept me on my toes and pushed me to think more critically and carefully. At Stony Brook I was especially fortunate to work with Brooke Larson, and to be surrounded by an exceptionally stimulating cohort of friends and colleagues (among them Paul Gootenberg, Gene Lebovics, Nancy Tomes, and Helen Cooper) and graduate students, including Stanley (Chip) Blake, whose outstanding study on *nordestino* identity has been a key reference for my own work. At Maryland, besides Mary Kay Vaughan, I had the pleasure of working with my fellow Brazilianist, Daryle Williams, and could draw on the comparative (and incomparable) insights of my colleagues Gary Gerstle and Ira Berlin. I also thank my former students, now colleagues, Ricardo López, Sarah Sarzynski, Patricia Acerbi, Paula Halperin, and Leandro Benmergui, whose own research has enriched my work in any number of ways.

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Considering all the intellectual debts that I have accumulated over the years that I have been working on this book, it is a little ironic that I have dedicated it to two people who frankly were not the least bit helpful to me in its completion—*muito pelo contrário*. But my daughter Sarah and my son Danny fill my life with love and with meaning, and that is worth more than I can possibly say.