

Abbreviations

- CEB:** Comunidade Eclesial de Base (Ecclesiastical Base Community), a grassroots Catholic organization inspired by liberationist Christianity. The aim is to facilitate both religious and socio-political involvement by linking faith to life, by relating concrete societal and political problems to religious themes. Promoted by numerous bishops in Brazil and in other parts of Latin America, thousands of these communities exist throughout the region.
- CEDEFES:** Centro de Documentação Ely Ferreira da Silva (Ely Ferreira da Silva Center for Documentation), a small, nongovernmental organization founded in 1985, is based in Belo Horizonte. Its stated objective is “to help strengthen popular movements by documenting the history of the people and supporting them in their struggles in order to build a more humane society.”
- CEDI:** Centro Ecumenico de Documentação e Informação (Ecumenical Center for Documentation and Education), a nongovernmental organization, has been a major supporter of the indigenous movement, indigenous communities, and research on issues relevant to Indians.
- CIMI:** Conselho Indigenista Missionário (Indigenous Missionary Council), a Catholic organization institutionally under the jurisdiction of the **CNBB**, was founded in 1972 with “the general objective of helping to build the autonomy of Indians as peoples who are ethnically and culturally different, and to contribute to the strengthening of their organizations and alliances in both Brazil and the continent.”
- CNBB:** Conferência Nacional dos Bispos do Brasil (National Conference of Brazilian Bishops).
- CPT:** Comissão Pastoral da Terra (Pastoral Land Commission). “Founded in 1975 by a group of Catholic Bishops whose Dioceses are located in the northern Amazonian areas where there are intense land

conflicts, the CPT is now a nationwide lay and clerical organization linked to the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops. CPT functionaries monitor and tabulate data on the various aspects of the Brazilian agrarian question, particularly violent land conflicts, and typically assist unions around the countryside to establish themselves” (Maybury-Lewis, *The Politics of the Possible*, 100).

FUNAI: Fundação Nacional do Índio (National Foundation for the Indian) is the government agency responsible for Indian affairs—much like the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the United States. FUNAI replaced SPI (the previous Indian agency) in 1967 at the height of the military dictatorship with the principal objective of national security. The agency currently employs more than five thousand individuals.

NGO: Nongovernmental organization. The Portuguese acronym is ONG (Organização Não-Governmental).

SPI: Serviço de Proteção aos Índios (Indian Protection Service), the first government agency dedicated to the protection of Indians, was founded in 1910 with the guiding principle of “fraternal protection.” It was abolished and replaced by FUNAI in 1967.

UNI: União das Nações Indígenas (Union of Indigenous Nations), founded in 1978, became the first nationwide indigenous organization in Brazil.