

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My personal relationship with Brazil is deeply embedded in this book. Soon after graduating from college, I moved to a working-class neighborhood in Philadelphia with seven other young radical Quakers to live in a commune and engage in a weekly Latin American study group. Each of us chose to report on a different country. For some reason, I selected Brazil. In gathering material for my report, I discovered the publications of the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) and an interview with the Brazilian student leader Jean Marc Van der Weid, published by the Chicago Area Group on Latin America. They captured my imagination and started me off on a quest to learn more about the country, its history, and its political situation during the military regime. I am very grateful to Pamela Haines, Alan Blood, Ellen Forsythe, Peter Blood, Ruth Reber, Shay Long, and Eli Hochstetler (who has since passed away) for that intense two-year experience. At some point, I sent a letter to the Committee against Repression in Brazil (CARIB). After receiving a response, I journeyed to Washington, D.C., where I met Marcos Arruda, a principal character in this book. Marcos was, at the time, a Brazilian political exile and one of the leaders of the antidictatorship movement in the United States. I was immediately struck by his charismatic and gentle nature, and he encouraged me to help out in the campaigns being organized about Brazil. He also introduced me to his sister, Martinha, who has become a lifelong friend.

I played a marginal role in working against the Brazilian military regime in the early 1970s. In gathering signatures to help obtain the release of the jailed activist Manoel da Conceição, I soon discovered how little people in the United States knew about Brazil. The coup d'état in Chile turned my attention toward that country, and between September 1973 and December 1975 I worked endless hours first in Philadelphia and then in the San Francisco Bay Area to educate the U.S. public about the military regime of Augusto Pino-

chet. Lisa Kokin and Lorraine Thiebaud have remained close friends from that period, and they helped inspire this work.

In January 1976, I embarked on a grand tour of Latin America with a bag slung over my shoulder and my life savings held snugly in a money belt. I traveled through Central America, spent six months in Colombia, and then journeyed down the Amazon River and through the Brazilian Northeast, learning the Portuguese language and absorbing Brazilian culture along the way. I ended up living in São Paulo, where I taught English. There, I was fortunate to stumble into a network of Brazilian organizing clandestinely and later openly against the military regime. Many of those friendships have lasted to this day. I will always be indebted to Hélio Goldsztejn for introducing me to that world. Some of the people with whom I worked in the 1970s were instrumental in helping me research this book three decades later. I want to thank Henrique Carneiro, Lauro Ávila Pereira, and especially Edméa Jafet, who has been a generous host for my many interludes in São Paulo. She is one of the most amazing women I know.

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