



LARC Resources on Brazil

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This guide provides a list of resources about Brazil. These resources represent just a small fraction of the resources available about Brazil. For more resources, please visit the online catalog. Brazil is particularly known for their film industry, so the films listed here are only a small fraction of the films about and made in Brazil available through the Lending Library.



**Latin American Resource Center
Resources Focusing on Brazil**

Books

Architecture and Sculpture in Brazil.

By Ottaviano C. De Fiore. Covers the various periods of art and architecture in Brazil from the colonial period to the present day. 1984. English. 33 pages.

Brazil.

Reference handbook on Brazil including sections on history, political organization, geography, regions, demography, culture, education, society, economy, sports, and tourism. 1976. English. 600 pages.

Brazil: A Primer.

Introduction to Brazil in several units: people, land, religion, culture, social life, history, and a close up of Brazil today. By the American Friends Service Committee, 1985. English. 52 pages.

Brazil: Curriculum Guide.

Presents the necessary information for the student and teacher to understand better the issues of Brazil within the political, economic, and social context. 1985. English. 224 pages.

Brazil: Introductory Articles.

Compilation of maps, history timeline, basic statistics, debt situation, various newspaper articles concerning environmental issues, etc. English. 50 pages.

The Brazil Reader.

Robert M. Levine and John J. Corcitti. eds. Bordering all but two of South America's other nations and by far Latin America's largest country, Brazil differs linguistically, historically, and culturally from Spanish America. Its indigenous peoples share the country with descendants of Portuguese conquerors and the Africans they imported to work as slaves, along with more recent immigrants from southern Europe, Japan, and the Middle East. Capturing the scope of this country's rich diversity and distinction with over a hundred entries from a wealth of perspectives. Selections include letters, photographs, interviews, legal documents, visual art, music, poetry, fiction, reminiscences, and scholarly analyses. English. 527 pages.

Music of Brazil

David P. Appleby, University of Texas Press. Comprehensive history of Brazilian music with an outline of the major trends, important composers, and currents of thought shaping the folk, popular, and art music that are part of Brazil's unique musical heritage. 1983. English. 209 pages.

Political Economy of Brazil

By Peter Evans, Elida Ribinia Liedke, and Enno D. Liedke Filho, Latin American Institute, University of New Mexico. English. 21 pages.



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Miscellaneous Resources

Brazil

National Geographic Brazil Political Map (Classic), Laminated. This wall map of Brazil contains thousands of place names and accurate political boundaries including Brazil's 26 states. Major and minor cities, superhighways, roads, passenger rail lines, and national parks are clearly depicted. Brazil's diverse terrain is represented through accurate shaded relief and hydrographic symbology. Elevations and depths are in meters: 41" x 41"; Scale 1:5,000,000 (1 inch = 79 miles).

Brazil: Songs of Protest

Zelia Barbosa sings of the sertao and favela. This album presents 12 of the most typical songs depicting the life of the Brazilian people. 45 minutes.

Podcasts

Discovering Brazil in your Local Community.

This podcast explores the work of the New Orleans community group, Casa Samba, to educate the community about the cultural diversity of Brazil. Produced by Brian Grober, Tulane Center for Public Service.

Roots of Capoeira:

This podcast explores the roots of capoeira and examines how Capoeira is integrated into the New Orleans community. 5 minutes. Produced by Andrew Bankstone, Bryn Manani, and Eric Rawls, Tulane University.

Leaving Brazil: One Women's Pursuit of Education in the US.

This podcast explores one women's story about how she pursued higher education in the US. Produced by Lauren Toppenberg, Tulane University.

Nonfiction Films

Amazon Journal

Geoffrey O'Connor, the filmmaker of *Contact* and *At the Edge of Conquest* produced this fascinating chronicle of recent political events in the Brazilian Amazon. Beginning with the assassination of Chico Mendes in 1988 and ending with the massacre of Yanomami Indians in 1993, this five year journey provides an illuminating perspective on the volatile changes of this



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era. In collaboration with the Brazilian anthropologist Alcida Ramos, he explores the return of the "noble savage phenomenon" and includes exclusive sequences of the events surrounding the massacre of a village of Yanomami Indians, the demarcation of Kayapo Territory, and the rock star Sting's assessment of his own involvement in rain forest politics. 1996. English. 58 minutes.

Axe

This documentary looks at the struggle of black people in Brazil who face racism and discrimination. Consists of interviews with members of Brazilian society from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. 1988. Portuguese with English subtitles. 30 minutes.

Benedita da Silva

This film focuses on the life of Benedita da Silva, the first Black woman to be elected to the Brazilian National Congress. A resident of a favela (slum), she emphasized living conditions and the plight of the working poor in Rio de Janeiro. Includes interviews with da Silva and many people who knew her. This film touches upon racism, feminism, ageism, politics, and poverty in general. The Cinema Guild. 1991. Portuguese with English subtitles. 30 minutes.

Biopirates

In December of 2000, in Sao Luis do Maranhao, 23 Brazilian indigenous medicine men questioned traditional aspects of knowledge. Between cities and forests, indigenous peoples have had to find their own ways to defend biodiversity and also ancient knowledge passed along generations from the invasion of powerful multinational pharmaceutical corporations. 2004. Spanish with English subtitles. 52 minutes.

Black Women of Brazil

This documentary looks at the ways Black women in Brazil have coped with racism while validating their lives through their own music and religion. 1986. English. 25 minutes.

Brazil (Fault lines: The Search for Political and Religious Links Series)

This controversial program highlights the political initiatives taken by Brazil's top two religious entities: Catholics and Evangelical Protestants. It argues that the Roman Catholic Church has always been fused with the nation's identity but fewer than one in ten attends mass. With the growing power of the evangelical movement, a battle against the Catholic establishment begins at the time of a crucial presidential election. One episode from the six-part series about religion and politics around the world. 2004. English. 37 minutes.

Brazil in the 16th and 17th Centuries

Describes Portuguese activity in 16th-century Brazil, the development of the sugar industry and the slave trade; these activities were then dominated by the Dutch in the 17th century. 1991. English. 55 minutes.



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Bus 174

On June 12, 2000, a bus filled with passengers was hijacked in Rio de Janeiro in broad daylight. The kidnapper, Sandro do Nascimento, terrorized his victims for four and a half hours as the whole country watched the drama live on Brazilian TV. Based on extensive research of stock footage, interviews, and official documents, *Bus 174* tells 2 parallel stories. Not only does it explain the dramatic events that unfolded as the police tried, and failed, to handle the hijack situation; but it also tells the life-story of the hijacker, revealing how a typical Rio de Janeiro street kid was transformed into a violent criminal. Both stories are interwoven to explain the violence in Brazil. 2004. Portuguese with English subtitles. 120 minutes.

Denying Brazil (A Negao do Brasil)

A documentary film about the taboos, stereotypes, and struggles of Black actors in Brazilian television "soaps." Based on his own memories and on a sturdy body of research, the director analyzes race relations in Brazilian soap operas, calling attention to their influence on Black people's identity-forming processes. 2000. Portuguese with English subtitles. 92 minutes.

Emas Park

Examines the animal and plant life found in this national park in the high plains of Brazil. PBS film. English. 54 minutes.

Favela Rising

Favela Rising documents a man and a movement, a city divided and a favela (Brazilian squatter settlement) united. Haunted by the murders of his family and many of his friends, Anderson Sa is a former drug-trafficker turned revolutionary. Through hip-hop music, the rhythms of the street, and Afro-Brazilian dance he rallies his community to war against the violent oppression enforced by teenage drug armies and sustained by corrupt police. At the dawn of liberation, just as collective mobility is overcoming all odds and Anderson's grassroots AfroReggae movement is at the height of its success, a tragic accident threatens to silence the movement forever. 2005. Portuguese with English subtitles. 80 minutes.

Filmmaker of the Amazon

The story of Silvino Santos (1886-1970) - the Brazilian filmmaker who first showed images of the Amazon at the turn of the twentieth century. In 1913, as the Amazonian rubber boom was at its peak, Silvino Santos made the first of 9 feature documentary film which chronicled the extraordinary events of a unique time and place in Brazilian history. In his lifetime Silvino Santos was acknowledged as a pioneer of Brazilian Cinema. English. 87 minutes.

Forbidden Land

This documentary looks at the struggle for land reform in rural Brazil and examines conflicts between landowners, the Catholic Church, and the Vatican. 1990. English. 55 minutes.



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Guerra do Brasil: Todo verdade sobre a Guerra do Paraguai

Known in Brazil as the Paraguayan War, this conflict pitted the Triple Alliance (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay) against Paraguay in the bloodiest conflict in the history of South America. This film tries to clarify mysteries and unmask myths carefully nurtured by Brazilian official histories. 1987. Portuguese. 104 minutes.

Harvesting New Songs: Brazil

The international folkloric group Sotavento describes the instruments, rhythms, and social influences of the music of Brazil and performs three selections. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. 1986. English. 16 minutes.

Iawo

Examines the Yoruba cult of Orisha, brought by African slaves, it still thrives in Cuba and Brazil. The particular documentary shows the initiation of a group of women into a temple. 1978. Portuguese with English subtitles. 40 minutes.

Macumba: World of the Spirits

Explores the religion of Macumba in Brazil--a combination of African religion and Catholicism. English. 20 minutes.

Man of Leather

Depicts the life of the vaqueiro, the Brazilian cowboy of the northeast. Cattle farming, an important economic activity since colonial times, also became a strong cultural phenomenon in its own right. Portuguese with English subtitles. 20 minutes.

Manda Bala (Send a Bullet)

Brazil is known for its beautiful beaches, lush rain forests, and vibrant culture. However, in recent years, the country has developed a reputation for corrupt politicians, kidnapping, and plastic surgery. *Manda Bala (Send a Bullet)* artfully connects these seemingly disparate elements and conducts a dazzling, yet harrowing, examination of the tragic domino effect that has reshaped the face of the country and created an industry built on corruption. 2006. English and Portuguese. 92 minutes.

Maysa Matarazzo

This is a black-and-white documentary about a great Brazilian popular singer/composer of the '50's and '60's, Maysa Matarazzo. Includes footage of her performances and interviews with friends. Portuguese. 30 minutes.

The Midnight Man (Homem da Meia Noite)

Olinda, one of the best-preserved colonial cities in Brazil, is the protagonist of this short documentary. Its vitality is revealed in the elegant movements of the Frevo dancers, the piles of



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trash gathered in the streets during sunset, the children playing bare foot in front of churches, the cahotic ladeiras full of people, or the colorful blocos and bonecos. No dialogue. 14 minutes.

Our Developing World: Brazil

Human rights, environmental issues, and Brazil's drug problem are featured in this program. The efforts of ethnologist Porfirio Carvailho to save the Waimiri-Atraori Indians of the Amazon from extinction are detailed. A second segment shows how Sweden and Brazil are cooperating in the development of energy from biomass. A third segment focuses on the drug problem in Sao Paulo. 1996. English. 29 minutes.

Pierre Verger - Messenger Between Two Worlds (Pierre Verger - Mensageiro entre Dois Mundos)

This sumptuously-filmed documentary retraces the adventurous life of photographer Pierre Verger, a French ethnographer who devoted his life to the study of the reciprocal cultural influences between Bahia, Brazil and the Benin regions of Africa. The originality of his work lies in his demonstration that not only were cultural traditions brought from Africa to Brazil by slaves, but former slaves who returned to their native continent brought back Brazilian influences as well. 1998. Portuguese with English subtitles. 90 minutes.

Saudade Do Futuro

The music and rhythms of Sao Paulo, Brazil, come alive in this fascinating look at the cantadores, troubadours from Brazil's poorer northern regions who set the streets of the giant city afire with their infectious sounds. Brazilian-born, Paris-based filmmaker Cesar Paes follows the cantadores through the megalopolis and documents their improvised musical poetry and its effects on the city's population. Portuguese with English subtitles. 94 minutes.

The Spirit of Samba: Black Music of Brazil

The music and dance of samba has gained international predominance. The spirit of samba can be traced to the state of Bahia on the eastern coast of Brazil. The word itself means "party" and found life when ex-slaves of Bahia moved to the cities, bringing their style of music and dance. This one-hour documentary takes a comprehensive and thorough look at samba, from its origins to its international acclaim and its influence on other styles of music. This documentary includes some wonderful colorful and vibrant footage of the samba and Carnival, as well as interviews with some of Brazil's shining samba stars. 2001. English. 50 minutes.

Taking Aim

In 1985, Monica Frota, an independent Brazilian filmmaker, collaborated with the Kayapo people of the Brazilian rain forest to develop Mekaron Opoi D'joi (He Who Creates Images), the first Kayapo media project. This film chronicles the Kayapos' appropriation of film technology as a political and cultural weapon. Using footage shot by the Kayapo, archival footage, stills and computer animation, this film is a witty and provocative exploration of issues of power and representation. 1993. English. 41 minutes.



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Trip to the Heart of Brazil

Part of a series produced by the Workers Party TV Unit (TVT) in Brazil, this film follows the president of the Worker's Party (PT), Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva, on his Caravan of Citizenship through over 600 towns. 1994. Portuguese with English subtitles.

Waiapi Slash and Burn Civilization

Agricultural techniques of the Waiapi Indians of the Amapari region in northern Brazil. English. 22 minutes.

Fictional Films

A Casa de Alice (Alice's House)

Alice is in her forties and works as a manicurist in a beauty salon. She lives in a neighborhood in the outskirts of Sao Paulo, sharing an apartment with her mother, Dona Jacira, her husband, Lindomar, a taxi-driver, and their three sons, Lucas, Edinho, and Junior. At home, Dona Jacira takes care of the household chores. She washes, irons, cooks, and cleans, while listening to her favorite radio show. Carlinhos Abranches, the show's host, seems to alleviate the old woman's loneliness, who realizes she is gradually going blind. This film follows her life and that of her family as they navigate Sao Paulo. Portuguese with English subtitles. 92 minutes.

Aguirre the Wrath of God

Don Lope de Aguirre, a brutal conquistador leads his soldiers into the Amazon jungle in an obsessive quest for gold. The story is of the expedition's relentless degeneration into brutality and despair. Director Werner Herzog strove, whenever possible, to replicate the historical circumstances of the conquistadors, and the sheer human effort of traveling through the dense mountains and valleys of Brazil in armor creates a palpable sense of struggle and derangement. 1977. German with English subtitles. 100 minutes.

América

América is a Brazilian telenovela that was originally broadcast in 2005 by TV Globo. The telenovela focused on the life of an illegal immigrant to the United States and the lives of those she left behind in Brazil. 63 discs. 2 episodes per disc. Please state disc number when ordering. Portuguese, 50 minutes.

Black Orpheus

Inspired by the play *Orfeo da conceicao* by Vinicius de Moraes. The mythic tale of Orpheus the music-maker and his haunted lover Eurydice is retold, with samba guitar replacing the lute and Rio's Carnaval celebration serving as Hades. 1959. Portuguese with English subtitles. 103 minutes.



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The Burning Season: The Chico Mendes Story

Some call him a hero. Others label him bad for business. But enemies of Brazilian rain forest activist Chico Mendes call him something else: a target. Spurred to action after a key organizer of the rain forest's working poor is slain, Mendes stands firm against slash-and-burn deforestation. He becomes a nonviolent activist, union leader, political candidate, and a recognized authority who helps alert the world to the plight of the Amazon. 1994. English 123 minutes.

Bye Bye Brazil

Into a dusty hill town in Northeast Brazil rolls a fabulous spectacle: Swallow, the muscle king; Salome, queen of the Rhumba; even Lord Gypsy himself, all aboard a broken-down green truck with tent, lights, music, and megaphone. 1980. Portuguese with English Subtitles. 105 minutes.

Central Station

Inside Rio de Janeiro's bustling Central Station, two very unlikely souls are about to become inextricably linked. When a young boy witnesses his mother's accidental death, a lonely retired school-teacher reluctantly takes the child under her wing. Although initially distrustful of each other, the two form an uncommon bond as they venture from the bustling city to Brazil's barren and remote northeastern region in search of the boy's father. Portuguese with English subtitles. 106 minutes.

Chronically Unfeasible

Set in exotic Brazil, director Sergio Bianchi's bitterly sarcastic political comedy skewers race and class relations with witty precision as it presents a society in chaos. The story revolves around six characters who serve as a microcosm of modern Brazil, a people besieged by corruption, exploitation, sexual oppression, and social discord. How these characters interact and strive for identity is at the core of a controversial, original, and unsettling look at the class struggle that is as funny as it is intelligent. Portuguese with English subtitles. 101 minutes.

City of God

Celebrated with worldwide acclaim, this powerful true story of crime and redemption has won numerous prestigious awards. The streets of the world's most notorious slum, Rio de Janeiro's City of God, are a place where combat photographers fear to tread, police rarely go and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20. In the midst of the oppressive crime and violence, a frail and scared young boy will grow up to discover that he can view the harsh realities of his surroundings with a different eye: the eye of an artist. In the face of impossible odds, his brave ambition to become a professional photographer becomes a window into his world and ultimately his way out. Portuguese with English, Spanish, and French subtitles. 130 minutes.

Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands Based on Jorge Amado's novel of the same name. Details the life of a young widow, her respectable new husband and her dynamic, sexy, dead first husband who refuses to stay buried. Dubbed in English. 106 minutes.



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Hour of the Star

Based on the novel by Clarice Lispector *A Hora da Estrela*, it is the story of Macabea, a young woman from the countryside of northeast Brazil who moves to the sprawling city of Sao Paulo. Portuguese with English subtitles. 96 minutes.

The House of Sand

Filmed entirely on the magnificent, sandy coast of northern Brazil, Áurea's saga begins in 1910, in Maranhão, where her fanatical husband has relocated his family to start a farm. Desperate and pregnant, Áurea longs to return to the city, but cannot traverse the dunes with her aging mother, Maria in tow. When calamity strikes, the two women find themselves stranded. Eventually, they settle among the shifting sands. But her passionate daughter, Maria, longs to explore the world beyond the dunes. Portuguese with English and French subtitles. 115 minutes.

Justice

How and for whom does the judicial system work in Brazil? Without attempting to provide definite answers, Maria Ramos takes her camera to a place rarely seen by outsiders: a criminal courtroom in Rio de Janeiro. Ramos observes the daily routine of several individuals, people on both sides: those who work there every day (public attorneys, judges, prosecutors) and those who are merely passing through (the accused). 2004. Portuguese with English subtitles. 102 minutes.

Macunaima

A biting socio-moral comedy with grotesque humor. It caricatures the ridiculous in the human comedy. Shows the absurdity of racism, the condition of Indigenous peoples, and the way in which the different social classes devour each other. Based on the book by Mario de Andrade. 1969. Portuguese 103 minutes.

The Man of the Year

Maiquel (Murilo Benicio) has lost a bet and dyed his hair blond. This little event triggers a head-on collision with destiny in which Maiquel goes from nobody to hero to outlaw all in 24 hours. Based on the award-winning novel, *O Matador* by Patricia Melo. Portuguese with English subtitles. 106 minutes.

Mango Yellow

The hothouse atmosphere of Brazil comes alive in *Mango Yellow*, where lust and economic desperation combine in a volatile brew of provocative cinema. On the mean streets of the coastal town of Recife, an array of characters including a jaded waitress, a gay cook, a philandering butcher, and his evangelical wife are discussed. 2002. Portuguese with English subtitles. 100 minutes.

The Middle of the World

Romeo, illiterate and unemployed, feels destiny drawing him on an odyssey to Rio de Janeiro in pursuit of a job and a decent life. Based on a true story, *The Middle of the World* follows a family



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of seven on a journey 2000 miles across the hinterlands of Brazil on bicycles. 2004 Portuguese with English subtitles. 86 minutes.

O Cangaceiro

Set in the backlands of Brazil, it relates the story of a cangaceiro, a Brazilian cowboy. 1953. Portuguese. 90 minutes.

O Carcere e a Rua (The Prison and the Street)

Cláudia is the oldest and most respected inmate at Madre Pelletier Penitentiary. The one who gives the orders and who protects. She protects young Daniela, for example, whose life is at risk because she is accused of having killed her own child. But Cláudia, like Betânia, is to leave the prison soon. *O Cárcere e a Rua* wanders between the cells at Madre Pelletier women's penitentiary in Porto Alegre and the streets of the capital of Rio Grande do Sul state. Portuguese with English subtitles. 80 minutes.

O Crime do Ze Bigorna

This is a story of the tragedy of Brazilian politics. At the end of the Old Republic, with the rise of Getulio Vargas, a small city is a parallel to the national political conflict. In this city an ex-blacksmith, Ze Bignorna, is the incarnation of goodness and innocence. He is manipulated and confesses to a crime he did not commit and becomes a popular political leader. In reality he was only a pawn of Vargas. 1977 Portuguese 100 minutes.

O Pagador de Promesas

A classic film about Ze do Burro, a campesino who promised to carry a cross as heavy as Christ's because his beloved donkey recovered from wounds suffered during a storm. He must face prejudice, injustice, and intrigue when the padre refuses to let him in the church because of charges of witchcraft. 1962. Portuguese with English subtitles. 95 minutes.

Quilombo

Classic Brazilian film about runaway slaves and their fight for freedom and dignity. 1984. Portuguese with English subtitles. 90 minutes.

Samba da Criacao do Mundo

Based on *Os nago ea morte* by Juana Elbein Dos Santos. An opera-samba which tells of the creation of the world according to the Nago peoples of Africa. Includes lively singing and dancing and parades of the Samba School Beija-Flor. 1979. Portuguese with English subtitles. 58 minutes.

TV Brazil

Nine tapes of TV broadcasts of Brazilian news/entertainment shows. Covers sports, food, news, commercials, music, etc. Portuguese 30 minutes.



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Um Trem para as Estrelas

This is the story of a young man, Vinicius, a musician from the suburbs with a promising future. One day his girlfriend disappears. Vinicius and his best friend, Drime, search for her, and this search takes them on a journey where Vinicius loses the innocence of youth but overcomes obstacles through the force of poetry. Portuguese. 120 minutes.

Xica

This movie is based on the story of Xica, a black slave who becomes the unofficial Empress of Brazil using her will and sexual charm. Set in the interior of Brazil during the diamond rush of the 18th century. Portuguese with English subtitle, 109 minutes.

The Year my Parents went on Vacation

The Year is 1970. The World Cup is on; Pele and Team Brazil are international heroes. Meanwhile, back in Brazil, 12 year-old Mauro is thrust into a maelstrom of political and personal upheaval when his left-wing militant parents are forced to go underground. He is left in the care of his Jewish grandfather's neighbor in Sao Paulo. Suddenly finding himself an exile in his own country, Mauro is forced to create an ersatz family from the religiously diverse and colorful population of his new neighborhood. 2006. Portuguese with English subtitles. 110 minutes.