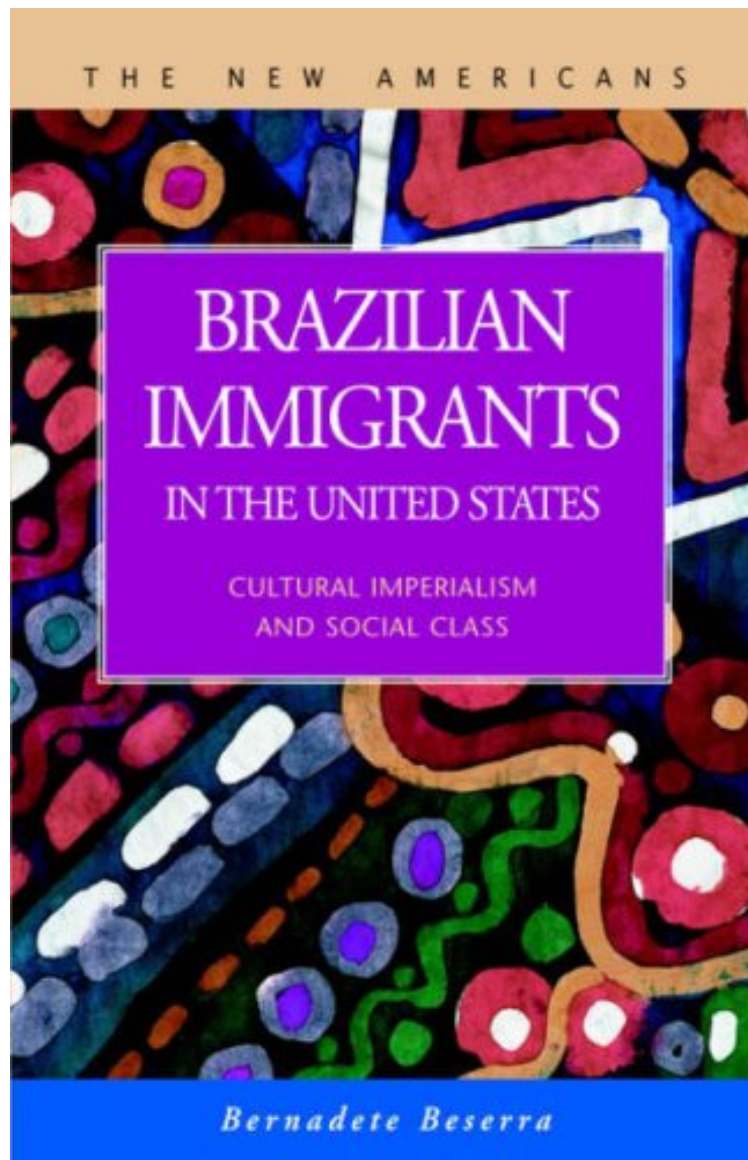


(Download free ebook) Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: Cultural Imperialism and Social Class (New Americans)

## Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: Cultural Imperialism and Social Class (New Americans)

*Bernadete Beserra*

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**Bernadete Beserra : Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: Cultural Imperialism and Social Class (New Americans)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: Cultural Imperialism and Social Class (New Americans):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great infoBy Cristiane MarquesThis is not an easy read, as it is a scholarly work. Nonetheless, it has precious information for me, eventhough I am a Brazilian living in New Mexico, not LA.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Brazilian Immigrants in the United States: Cultural Imperialism and Social ClassBy Judith McDonnellThere are many good studies on Brazilian immigrants in the United States, but none better than Bernadete Beserra's. She analyzes the process of Brazilian immigrant identity negotiation within the U.S. a priori ethno-racial hierarchy. Beserra, herself a Brazilian, explains the many ways that this relatively small immigrant group from a very large country must negotiate its identity in response to the economic, political and social conditions in which they find themselves. Theses conditions, especially in the context of U.S. imperialism and advanced capitalism, are often experienced as anti-immigrant and, more specifically, anti-Brazilian, creating dilemmas for Brazilians. For example, Beserra unpacks the issue of Brazilians negotiating a Latino identity vis--vis other identity categories. Beserra combines in-depth interviews with Brazilians in the Los Angeles area, with participant observation, with socio-economic data of 195 people. The mixed-methodology allows the author to provide the reader with a number of important angles on the process of "Americanization," that Brazilians do or do not experience.This book is a must read for three groups. First, this will make a compelling read for people that finds themselves searching for a book that describes quality of life issues for immigrant groups. Beserra's skillful weaving of immigrant stories into the context of U.S. American culture and class allows the reader to see pieces of the daily experiences of Brazilians. Second, for social activists that are concerned with all immigrants fights for justice, the author provides portraits of the ways by which immigrants struggle and survive. But, do not be misled. This book is first and foremost a fine scholarly work. So, the third group are scholars and academics working in a variety of disciplines with myriad interests. This group will appreciate Beserra's theoretical context, borrowing heavily from Bourdieu, and her consistency in placing the Brazilian immigrant experience in the context that she develops. That said, the three groups are not mutually exclusive in what excites them about a book. Scholars will appreciate the narrative excerpts, activists will too, and the general readership will find the theoretical context interesting and so well written as to be understandable without background in the area. If you don't claim membership in any of the three "groups" buy this book anyway. Brazilian communities in the U.S. are becoming both more numerous and larger. The chances are good that you will find yourself interacting with the growing Brazilian immigrant population. Bernadete Beserra's book will help you find and interact on common ground.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Brazilians in Los AngelesBy N. FerdinandtThis book is an anthropological case study through participant observation of two groups of Brazilian immigrants in Los Angeles. Beserra's analysis from the perspective of American cultural imperialism is plausible, and her description of the dynamics of Brazilian social classism is quite useful. For those studying Brazilian immigrants in the US, this book lays down a basis of data and a model of qualitative study by which to compare and base other studies of Brazilians in other parts of the US. However, the study cannot be generalized to its title's broader claim of Brazilians "in the United States". Furthermore, because the two groups are limited to a Brazilian women's group and a Brazilian religious group, its generalizability to the 40,000 or so Brazilians in Los Angeles is questionable.

Beserra examines Brazilian immigration to the United States from the perspective of the relationship between the two countries as it developed through American imperialist expansion in Brazil. Drawing on ethnographic research among Brazilians in Los Angeles, she shows that direct or indirect contact with American culture develops the need to live or the dream of living in the United States. Once in the U.S., different expectations and reasons for immigrating, class position in Brazil, and the networks to which Brazilian immigrants are connected define how they will integrate into American society. By exploring the experiences of the members of two Brazilian associations, the Portuguese-speaking Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Chino, and the Brazilian Women's Group in Los Angeles, Beserra offers important clues for understanding the various expressions of the political economy of social class, race, and ethnicity in the United States.

About the AuthorBernadete Beserra is an Assistant Professor at the Federal University of Cear, Brazil. She earned her Ph.D. in 2000 from the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside.