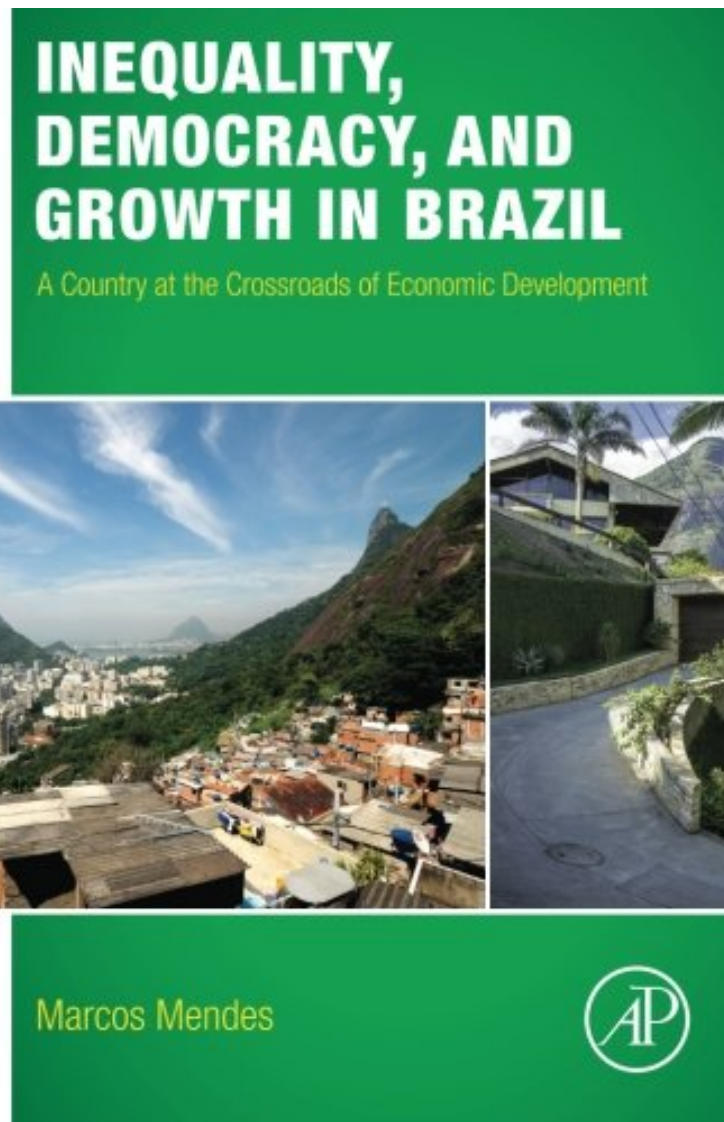


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Inequality, Democracy, and Growth in Brazil: A Country at the Crossroads of Economic Development

Marcos Mendes

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you want to read ONE book on Brazil, this is it
By FinancialAnalyst85
I've read a lot of books on the Brazilian economy, and I can say this is by far the best one-volume description of the economic and political challenges facing modern Brazil. It isn't an academic book, it is directed to a general audience, but the data is rigorous and well researched. It is also worth noting it was released in Portuguese in early 2014, before the magnitude of the current crisis was made clear to everyone. The author's pessimistic outlook has been validated by recent events. I read the Portuguese version so I can't speak to the translation, but I don't think that's a major issue, given the nature of the book.

In terms accessible to non-economists, Marcos Jos Mendes describes the ways democracy and inequality produce low growth in the short and medium terms. In the longer term, he argues that Brazil has two paths in front of it. One is to create the conditions necessary to boost economic performance and drive the country toward a high level of development. The other is to fail in untying the political knot that blocks growth, leaving it a middle-income country. The source of his contrasting futures for Brazil is inequality, which he demonstrates is a relevant variable in any discussion of economic growth. Inequality illuminates causes of seemingly-unconnected problems. This book, which includes freely-accessible documents and datasets, is the first in-depth analysis of an issue that promises to become increasingly prominent. Contrasting visions of Brazils future described in economic terms Easy-to-understand graphs and tables illustrate analytical arguments All Excel-based data available on a freely-accessible website

"Brazil: the nation of the future? According to Mendes the answer is 'not yet.' Mendes proposes ten powerful stylised facts which suggest that Brazil still has a long way to go. This book is required reading for all interested in development in Brazil and also in other developing countries." --Manoel Bittencourt, University of Pretoria
From the Back Cover
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About the Author
Marcos Jos Mendes is a member of a Brazilian think tank Fernand Braudel Institute of World Economics. He earned a Ph.D. from Universidade de So Paulo (Brazil) and is a Legislative Advisor in economics for the Brazilian Federal Senate. He started the research for this book in 2012-13 during an eight month visiting fellowship at the Department of Economics at the London School of Economics.