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978-0-521-10246-9 - The Demography of Inequality in Brazil

Charles H. Wood and Jose Alberto Magno Carvalho

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THE DEMOGRAPHY OF  
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# THE DEMOGRAPHY OF INEQUALITY IN BRAZIL

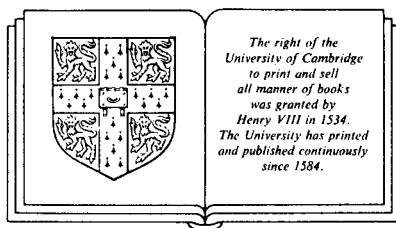
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

*Cambridge*

*New York New Rochelle Melbourne Sydney*

Cambridge University Press  
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521102469](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521102469)

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First published 1988  
This digitally printed version 2009

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Wood, Charles H. 1945–  
The demography of inequality in Brazil/Charles H. Wood and José  
Alberto Magno de Carvalho.  
p. cm. – (Cambridge Latin American studies: 67)  
Bibliography.  
Includes index.  
ISBN 0 521 35174 X  
1. Brazil – Population. 2. Income distribution – Brazil.  
3. Brazil – Economic conditions – 1945– I. Carvalho, José Alberto  
Magno de. II. Title. III. Series.  
HB3563.W66 1988  
304.6'0981 – dc 19 87–32991CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-35174-4 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-10246-9 paperback

Cambridge University Press

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## Preface

The ideas we present here began to take shape long before we realized we were writing this book. In 1974, after I finished a PhD in Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, I had the good fortune to find employment at the Centro de Desenvolvimento e Planejamento Regional (CEDEPLAR), a research and graduate training center at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. My arrival at CEDEPLAR coincided with José Alberto's return from England, where he had completed a PhD at the London School of Economics, under the direction of William Brass. José Alberto's knowledge of Brazil's economic and political history and his expertise in demographic methods nicely complemented my background in sociology and my interest in development studies. In the process of working together on several projects, our respective interests consistently gravitated to that grey area where population and development research overlap. Over the years, it became increasingly evident to us that the field of demography could benefit from a greater sensitivity to the macrostructural issues that concerned students of development and social change, just as the field of development studies could benefit from a solid dose of demography. But precisely how we were going to build a better bridge between the two posed a major problem. Unhappy with the tendency to resort to *ad hoc* solutions tailored to the particular topic at hand, we searched instead for some way to situate population variables within a larger model of socioeconomic and political organization. The task was made easier when we discovered that systematic attention to the idea of inequality was an effective way to construct a framework to conceptualize the relationships between structural change and demographic behavior. The result of our efforts is the model we use in this study of Brazil. We have no doubt that both the framework as well as the empirical analyses presented in this volume can be improved upon. Our hope is that we will have contributed

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*Preface*

something to the effort to understand the relationships between population and development in Latin America.

We have benefitted from the opinions of many people during the years that it took us to write this book. We owe our thanks to more colleagues and friends than we can name here. We are grateful to the students and faculty at CEDEPLAR and at the University of Florida, who probably contributed more to this effort than they realize. We gained much from the criticisms and suggestions generously offered by Harley Browning, Marianne Schmink and by the comments of the unnamed reviewer for Cambridge University Press. Special thanks are also due to Pamela Richards, whose sharp eye for awkward sentences and ambiguous ideas greatly improved the clarity of the text. We appreciate the help these people offered, and relieve them of any responsibility for the final product.

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