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978-0-521-19362-7 - Immigration, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Brazil, 1808 to the Present

Jeffrey Lesser

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IN BRAZIL, 1808 TO THE PRESENT

Immigration, Ethnicity, and National Identity in Brazil, 1808 to the Present examines the immigration to Brazil of millions of Europeans, Asians, and Middle Easterners beginning in the nineteenth century. Jeffrey Lesser analyzes how these newcomers and their descendants adapted to their new country and how national identity was formed as they became Brazilians, along with their children and grandchildren. Lesser argues that immigration cannot be divorced from broader patterns of Brazilian race relations, as most immigrants settled in the decades surrounding the final abolition of slavery in 1888, and their experiences were deeply conditioned by ideas of race and ethnicity formed long before their arrival. This broad exploration of the relationships among immigration, ethnicity, and nation allows for analysis of one of the most vexing areas of Brazilian study: identity.

Jeffrey Lesser is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Latin American History and Chair of the History Department at Emory University. He is the author of *A Discontented Diaspora: Japanese-Brazilians and the Meanings of Ethnic Militancy, 1960–1980* (2007), which received an honorable mention for the Roberto Reis Prize from the Brazilian Studies Association; *Negotiating National Identity: Minorities, Immigrants, and the Struggle for Ethnicity in Brazil* (1999), winner of the Best Book Prize from the Brazil section of the Latin American Studies Association; and *Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question* (1994), which won the Best Book Prize from the New England Council on Latin American Studies.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.orgInformation on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521145350

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First published 2013

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Lesser, Jeff.

Immigration, ethnicity, and national identity in Brazil, 1808 to the present / Jeffrey Lesser.
pages cm. – (New approaches to the Americas)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-19362-7 (hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-14535-0 (paperback)

1. National characteristics, Brazilian – History – 19th century. 2. National characteristics, Brazilian – History – 20th century. 3. Immigrants – Brazil – History – 19th century. 4. Immigrants – Brazil – History – 20th century. 5. Brazil – Ethnic relations – History. I. Title.

F2510.L48 2012

305.800981-dc23 2012016727

ISBN 978-0-521-19362-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-14535-0 Paperback

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To the memories of my father,

William Morris Lesser, ליי

my sogro,

Michael Shavitt, ליי

and my mentor,

Warren Dean

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The idea for this book was generated while eating. Stuart Schwartz, the General Editor of the *New Approaches to the Americas* series, suggested that I write a volume on immigration but I demurred. Jerry Dávila was also at the meal. He took me aside and told me that I had, yet again, made a wrong decision. To him and Stuart, go my thanks for encouraging me to embark on what has turned out to be an exciting project.

Many institutions and individuals supported me as I worked on this volume. Most of the manuscript was written during a year I spent at the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry at Emory University. My thanks go to Martine Brownley, Keith Anthony, Colette Barlow, and Amy Erbil for their support and generosity. The manuscript was completed at the Raymond and Mortimer Sackler Institute for Advanced Studies at Tel Aviv University, where Professor Abraham Nitzan and Ms. Ronit Nevo made sure I had the time and resources needed to focus on my writing. I particularly want to thank Raanan Rein, who over many years has been my brother in researching, writing, and adventuring.

While at Tel Aviv University, I had the chance to present a draft of the early chapters to the Latin American Studies Seminar coordinated by Rosalie Sitman. She and the members of the seminar were critical in helping me to reorient the book. I also had a chance to present chapters to the Immigration Workshop at the University of Chicago, and my thanks go to Marianna Staroselsky, Dain Borges, and their colleagues for suggestions. Later versions received superb comments from the participants in the Toronto Brazilian Studies Workshop organized by Gillian McGillivray. An almost final version of the introduction was

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presented to Emory University's Interdisciplinary Workshop in Colonial & Post-Colonial Studies.

Most of the photographs in the books came from the archives of the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin and the Arquivo Histórico Judaico Brasileiro in São Paulo. My appreciation goes to Ricarda Musser and Gudrun Schumacher at the former and to Roney Cytrynowicz, Eliane Klein, and Sr. Arnaldo at the latter. Koji Sasaki kindly shared his photos and information on Brazilian migrants in Japan and Anna Toss did the same with a photo of Brazilians of Japanese descent. Nelson Bohrer at the Fundação D. João VI de Nova Friburgo generously provide images of immigrant life in Brazil. Aron Lesser negotiated with the security guards on the Rua 25 de Março to take the photographs of the monument discussed in Chapter 5.

Individual chapters of this book were improved immensely because of the comments of Ben Bryce, Clifton Crais, Roney Cytrynowicz, Jerry Dávila, Max Pendergraph, Fabrício Prado, Raanan Rein, Lena Suk, Cari Williams Maes, and Genevieve Zubrzycki. Nate Hofer and Andrea Scionti helped with Arabic and Italian translations, respectively. Grant Mannion worked on the tables and footnotes. Patrick Allitt read an early version of the entire manuscript and was always good-humored in spite of my inability to learn the difference between "of" and "from." Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Glen Goodman, Thomas Rogers, and David Sheinin read later versions, and their comments improved the book immensely. Phyllis Berk was outstanding both as a production advisor and as a copy editor, in spite of her baseball preferences. Eric Crahan at Cambridge University Press moved the book through the review process during which the anonymous readers made excellent suggestions.

As with most of what I write, the final touches were done in my beloved São Paulo where my family and friends always make life exciting and interesting.