

COLONIAL BRAZIL

The complete *Cambridge History of Latin America* presents a large-scale, authoritative survey of Latin America's unique historical experience from the first contacts between the native American Indians and Europeans to the present day. *Colonial Brazil* is a selection of chapters from volumes I and II brought together to provide a continuous history of the Portuguese Empire in Brazil from the beginning of the sixteenth to the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. The chapters cover early Portuguese settlement, political and economic structures, plantations and slavery, the gold rushes, the impact of colonial rule on Indian societies, imperial reorganisation in the eighteenth century, and demographic and economic change during the final decades of the empire. Bibliographical essays are included for all chapters. The book will be a valuable text for both students and teachers of Latin American history.

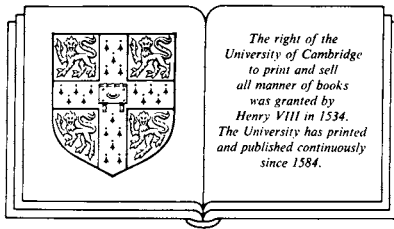
Cambridge University Press
0521349257 - Colonial Brazil - Edited by Leslie Bethell
Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

COLONIAL BRAZIL

edited by

LESLIE BETHELL

*Professor of Latin American History
University of London*



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

London New York New Rochelle

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press
 0521349257 - Colonial Brazil - Edited by Leslie Bethell
 Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

The contents of this book were previously published as part of
 volumes I and II of *The Cambridge History of Latin America*,
 copyright © Cambridge University Press, 1984.

© Cambridge University Press 1987

First published 1987

British Library cataloguing in publication data

The Cambridge history of Latin America. Vols. 1 and 2. *Selections*
 Colonial Brazil.

1. Brazil – History – 1549–1762 2. Brazil
 – History – 1763–1821
 I. Bethell, Leslie
 981'.03 F2528

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Colonial Brazil.

“Previously published as part of volumes I and II
 of the Cambridge history of Latin America”

Includes bibliographies and index.

1. Brazil – History – 1500–1548. 2. Brazil – History –
 1549–1762. 3. Brazil – History – 1763–1821.
 1. Bethell, Leslie.

F2524.C56 1987 981 87-31042

ISBN 0 521 34127 2 hard covers

ISBN 0 521 34925 7 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

CONTENTS

<i>List of maps and figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Note on currency and measurement</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
1 Portuguese settlement, 1500–1580	1
H. B. JOHNSON, <i>Scholar in Residence, University of Virginia</i>	
Discovery and early exploration	
The factory period	
The period of proprietary settlements	
The establishments of royal government	
Society and economy, <i>c.</i> 1580	
2 Political and economic structures of empire, 1580–1750	39
FRÉDÉRIC MAURO, <i>Professor of Latin American History, Université de Paris X</i>	
Portugal and Brazil, 1580 – <i>c.</i> 1695	
Portugal and Brazil, <i>c.</i> 1695–1750	
3 Plantations and peripheries, <i>c.</i> 1580 – <i>c.</i> 1750	67
STUART B. SCHWARTZ, <i>Professor of History, University of Minnesota</i>	
Sugar and slaves	
Subsidiary economic activities	
Peripheries of north and south	
The urban fabric	
Social structure	

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
4	Indians and the frontier	145
	JOHN HEMMING, <i>Director and Secretary, Royal Geographical Society, London</i>	
	The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries	
	The eighteenth century	
5	The gold cycle, c. 1690–1750	190
	A. J. R. RUSSELL-WOOD, <i>Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University</i>	
	Discovery	
	The gold rushes	
	Administration	
	Society	
	Economy	
	Mining	
	The fifths	
	Contraband	
	A balance sheet	
6	Imperial re-organization, 1750–1808	244
	ANDRÉE MANSUY-DINIZ SILVA, <i>Maître-assistant in the History and Literature of Brazil, Université de Paris III</i>	
	Territorial changes in Brazil	
	Administrative re-organization	
	Re-organization of the economy	
7	Late colonial Brazil, 1750–1808	284
	DAURIL ALDEN, <i>Professor of History, University of Washington, Seattle</i>	
	Demography	
	The expulsion of the Jesuits	
	Economic crisis and remedies	
	The agricultural renaissance	
	Signs of political unrest	
	A note on literature and intellectual life	344
	LESLIE BETHELL	
	<i>Bibliographical essays</i>	347
	<i>Index</i>	389

MAPS

Captaincies of Brazil in the sixteenth century	<i>page</i> 15
Principal Portuguese trade routes, sixteenth to eighteenth centuries	49
Colonial Brazil	68
The Pernambuco coast	70
The Bahian Recôncavo	71
The Bahian <i>sertão</i> in the seventeenth century	99
Southern Brazil	148
Northern Brazil	165
Minas Gerais in the early eighteenth century	193
Brazil before and after the Treaty of Madrid, 1750	248
The territories exchanged: the Seven Missions and Colônia do Sacramento	249
The northern and western defensive systems of Amazonia and the Mato Grosso	251

FIGURES

	<i>page</i>
1 Sugar plantation in Bahia: the agricultural cycle	79
2 Bahian sugar and tobacco exports, 1698–1765	104

NOTE ON CURRENCY AND MEASUREMENT

Various units of value and measurement are referred to in the text of the following chapters. It is not possible to give exact equivalents in modern terms, particularly as there were many local variations. The following explanations may prove helpful.

<i>Réis</i> (sing. <i>real</i>)	Smallest Portuguese monetary unit; existed only as money of account.
<i>Milréis</i>	1,000 réis, usually written 1\$000; worth 12s. in the middle of the seventeenth century.
<i>Cruzado</i>	The Portuguese cruzado was equal to 400 réis (480 réis in the first half of the eighteenth century); originally of gold, later silver.
<i>Conto</i>	A conto equalled 1,000\$000 réis (1,000 milréis).
<i>Arroba</i>	The Spanish arroba weighed about 11.5 kg (25 lb). The Portuguese arroba weighed 14.5 kg (32 lb).

PREFACE

The Cambridge History of Latin America (CHLA) is an authoritative survey of Latin America's unique historical experience during the five centuries from the first contacts between the native peoples of the Americas and Europeans in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries to the present day.

Colonial Brazil brings together seven chapters from volumes I and II of *The Cambridge History of Latin America* in a single volume which, it is hoped, will be useful for both teachers and students of Latin American history. The chapters examine the early Portuguese settlement of Brazil in the sixteenth century, the political and economic structures of the empire, sugar plantations and African slavery, the Indians and the frontier, the gold rushes, imperial reorganisation in the second half of the eighteenth century, and demographic, economic and political changes during the final decades of the empire. Each chapter is accompanied by a bibliographical essay.