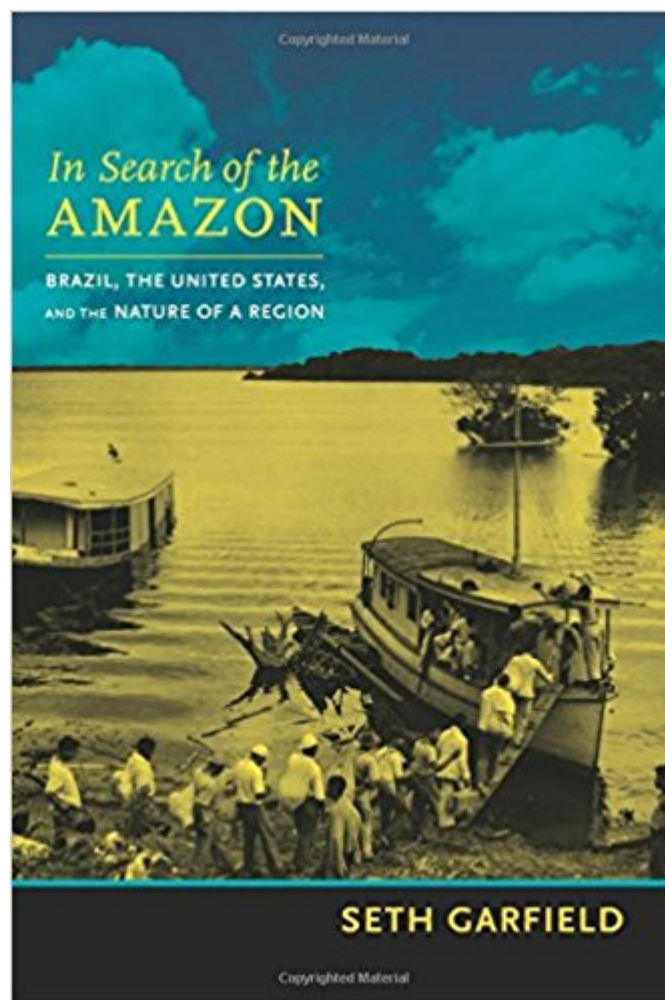




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# In Search Of The : Brazil, The United States, And The Nature Of A Region (American Encounters/Global Interactions)



## Synopsis

Chronicling the dramatic history of the Brazilian during the Second World War, Seth Garfield provides fresh perspectives on contemporary environmental debates. His multifaceted analysis explains how the became the object of geopolitical rivalries, state planning, media coverage, popular fascination, and social conflict. In need of rubber, a vital war material, the United States spent millions of dollars to revive the 's rubber trade. In the name of development and national security, Brazilian officials implemented public programs to engineer the hinterland's transformation. Migrants from Brazil's drought-stricken Northeast flocked to the in search of work. In defense of traditional ways of life, longtime residents sought to temper outside intervention. Garfield's environmental history offers an integrated analysis of the struggles among distinct social groups over resources and power in the , as well as the repercussions of those wartime conflicts in the decades to come.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In equal measure environmental, economic, and diplomatic history, Seth Garfield's In Search of the is much more than the sum of its parts. With clear prose and sharp analysis, Garfield's wonderful new book is a model for how to write the social history of nature, placing the great, wondrous at the heart of America's transnational twentieth century."â "Greg Grandin, author of Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City" In this path-breaking study, Seth Garfield explores

one of the most significant U.S. interventions in the region. During World War II, the United States was desperate for rubber after losing access to Asian markets. In alliance with Brazil, the U.S. government embarked on an aggressive initiative to jump-start the rubber trade. Garfield masterfully recasts U.S.-Brazilian relations, revealing the wartime roots of the ideological and bureaucratic structures that have shaped modern Brazil." —Susanna B. Hecht, author of *The Scramble for the Amazon and the Lost Paradise of Euclides da Cunha*

Seth Garfield's extraordinary book reflects an enormous amount of research, knowledge, and thought about the region. Besides recounting a fascinating chapter of World War II, Garfield places the history of the Amazon within a grid of political, social, and economic concerns that transcend the region's borders but are ultimately modulated by its particular circumstances of settlement and exploitation. He demonstrates the importance of wartime events in shaping subsequent disputes over the fate of the rain forest." —Barbara Weinstein, author of *The Rubber Boom, 1850–1920*

Weaving together social, economic, and environmental history, Seth Garfield shows how in the twentieth century the Amazon region became the locus of contention for a variety of actors, including Brazilian state officials, international capitalists, drought refugees, and migrant laborers. —[This book is recommended for use in graduate course in the history of US-Latin American Relations, labor history, and environmental studies.] • (Colonial American Historical Review)

"[Garfield] succeeds best as a straightforward storyteller in the best tradition of talented historians." (Angus Wright *Environmental History*)

"Garfield is to be commended for shedding so much light on the cultural and economic history of the Amazon in the twentieth century. This book is a must have for all those interested in development policy in the region." (Nigel Smith *Journal of Historical Geography*)

I highly recommend this book for its systematic and nuanced treatment of a region in flux. Garfield traces important precursors of contemporary inter-regional migration, land conflict, environmental change, and regional development policies. Specialists will enjoy the meticulous archival work, and geographers will appreciate the focus on environmental history and political ecology. Those with general Latin American interests will learn about an important but often overlooked chapter in regional change. • (Brian J. Godfrey *Journal of Latin American Geography*)

This thoughtful, well-rounded book is, then, an invaluable addition to the English language historiography of the Amazon that remedies a gap in the extant literature. It also foregrounds an aspect of the war effort far from the battlefields that made an important, if largely unacknowledged, contribution to Allied victory for which participating Brazilian rubber tappers could retrospectively be proud. • (Philip Chrimes *International Affairs*)

Garfield makes an important contribution to Brazilian historiography. [He] combines thorough research in US and Brazilian government documents and contemporary publications with discerning use of labor and criminal court cases and

oral histories with rubber migrants.â • (Thomas D. Rogers Hispanic American Historical Review)â œAlthough this may seem like well-traveled historiographical territory, Garfield finds new information to tap and synthesize. Whereas most books on the focus on a single topic â | Â the strength and novelty of Garfieldâ s work is his focus on the convergence of all of these elements and more. Garfieldâ s social and environmental approach means that he does not focus solely on the thoughts and actions of policy makers. Instead, he puts labor and nature at the center of the narrative to show how the was built from below. Garfieldâ s book successfully merges global, national, and local history.â • (Myrna Santiago Labor 2015-11-01)"In Search of the is an important addition to the ia bookshelf.... [R]eaders will enjoy the exotic settings, dramatic story, and larger historical interpretations." (Michael L. Conniff The Journal of American History 2016-03-01)

Seth Garfield is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas, Austin. He is the author of Indigenous Struggle at the Heart of Brazil: State Policy, Frontier Expansion, and the Xavante Indians, 1937â 1988, also published by Duke University Press.

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