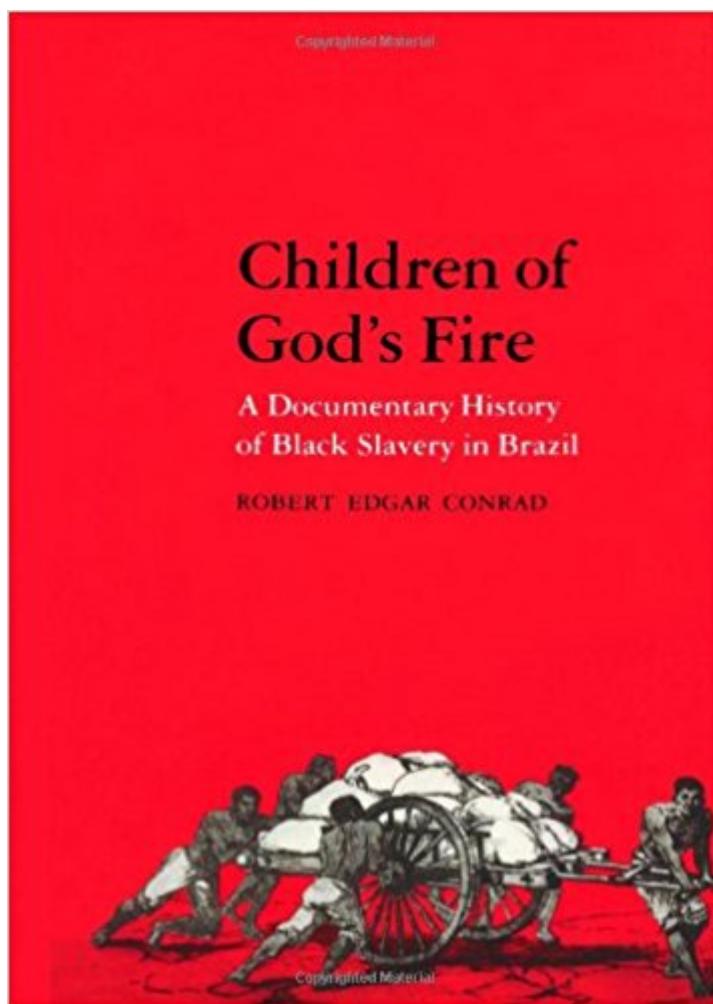


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# Children Of God's Fire: A Documentary History Of Black Slavery In Brazil



## Synopsis

This is a collection of documents covering all aspects of slavery in Brazil, from its beginnings in Portugal and Africa in the 15th century to its abolition in 1888.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Conrad's *Children of God's Fire* [originally Princeton, 1984] provides abundant material for historians and students of African slavery in Brazil to understand what the slaves actually experienced. It is an invaluable contribution both to the scholarly examination of Brazilian slavery and to the evolving debate on comparative slave systems in the Americas. . . . Conrad's documentary collection makes the primary evidence of the real character of Brazilian slavery available to a much wider audience.

Latin American Research Review

Conrad's book will stand as an indispensable teaching aid for those anxious to flesh out existing monographs. The wealth of documents within his collection will surely enable students to look with profit at Brazilian slavery at the same time as they study the servile institution elsewhere in the Americas, where such materials have long been available.

Journal of Latin American Studies

By the publication of these 117 documents, most translated from the Portuguese, Robert Conrad has removed any reason for ignorance [about slavery in Brazil], for they represent an unrelieved chronicle of the oppression of one race by another. . . . Sources include British consular reports, travelers' narratives, newspaper advertisements, sermons, regional laws, Jesuit accounts, records of the Brazilian house of deputies, and reports by a select committee of the British house of lords and personal

correspondence. Of special interest are seven documents attributable to persons of African descent. . . . This selection is a major contribution to the literature and is required reading for students of Brazilian history, of comparative colonialism and colonialism in the Americas, and of systems of slavery. •International History Review•A landmark in the historiography of slavery. •Journal of Social History

Robert E. Conrad is the author of *The Destruction of Brazilian Slavery, 1850-88* (1972; reissued Krieger, 1993), *World of Sorrow: The African Slave Trade to Brazil* (1986), and translator/editor of *Sandino: The Testimony of a Nicaraguan Patriot, 1921-1934* (1990).

Brazilian racial relations are different, explored and set out. The role of the Catholic Church, is analyzed.

This book is a giant collection of primary sources collected and edited by Robert Conrad pertaining to black slavery in Brazil. We used this book in my Slaves Societies of the Americas history course and it was an invaluable asset to my research. I had learned almost nothing about slavery in Brazil prior to reading this book and it has truly showed me the horrors of the institution of slavery. Having been mostly educated on slavery in the US South, I was shocked to discover that there were vastly more slaves in Brazil and that the Brazilian slavery system lasted practically until 1890. This is a must read for those who wish to gain a better understanding of what slavery in the Americas was truly like.

slavery in Brazil! This book is very good! It backs everything up with documentation and it shows how cruel of an institution slavery was in Brazil. It also gives the reader a good idea on the scope of slavery in Brazil. 40% of the Africans transported to the new world went to Brazil. This was a country that was totally dependent on African slave labor.

this is a highly technical book with excellent historical references and obvious good research. Very educational and informative. It is very readable. A word of caution: some of the commentaries reflect US or English mindset bias, i.e. a hint of a moral superiority, unwarranted, most probably unintentional and unconsciously done, but frequently encountered in books written in the English language about other cultures, which may offend other native language speakers.

Composed of myriad primary sources, Conrad prefaces each document with a description, date and summary of the following text. Organized topically and then chronologically within each section, the format perfectly suits the researcher. Interestingly, (for my purposes) the text contains numerous accounts of quilombos in Palmares, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and others. The documents date from 1550 (approx.) through the final proclamation ending slavery in Brazil in 1888. Outstanding research tool, as well as an interesting read for those wishing to learn, first hand, about slavery in Brazil.

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