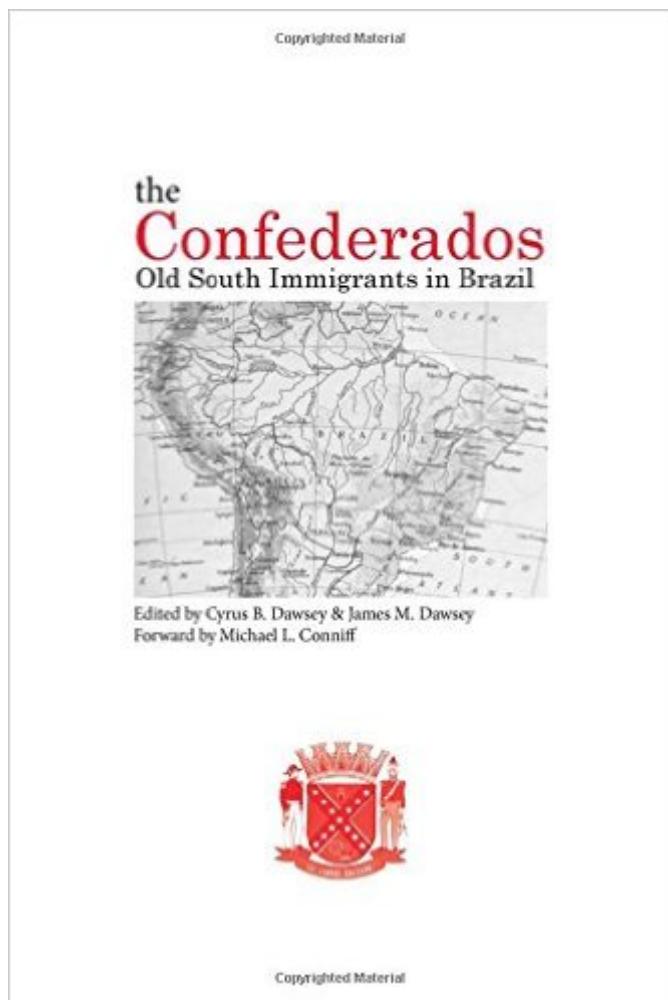


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The Confederados: Old South Immigrants In Brazil



Synopsis

This collection of essays--which also includes a previously unpublished narrative by an original settler-- examines the fascinating experiences of southern Confederate exiles in Brazil and their continuing legacy. During the late 1860s Southerners dissatisfied with the outcome of the Civil War and fearful of the extent of Union reprisals migrated to Brazil to build a new life for themselves. The Confederados--the great majority from Alabama and Texas--began a century-long adventure to establish a new homeland and to preserve important elements of their Old South heritage. For more than a hundred years, descendants of the original settlers have largely maintained their language and customs while contributing to Brazil's economy and society. Here, scholars from many fields examine every aspect of this unique mingling of cultures within the larger historical and cultural context.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: University Alabama Press; 2 edition (May 21, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0817309446

ISBN-13: 978-0817309442

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,213,702 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #280 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Brazil #1071 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Latin America #82342 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences

Customer Reviews

This book derives from a conference about the Confederados and it occasionally suffers from the attempt to edit together a group of papers that frequently overlap. With this one caveat, I must say that The Confederados is fascinating. Despite the occasionally kludgey back and forth references to other essays and chapters (and the repetition of material), the Dawsey's have assembled a fine book that examines the impact and legacy of post-Civil War immigrants from the U.S. South to Brazil; it also points out the contributions of other immigrants from the North and Europe who came to Brazil at roughly the same time. Especially interesting is the memoir of a Confederada, written late in her life, but rich in details about her childhood exodus from Alabama and the difficulties in

getting to and starting a new life in Brazil. Also interesting is the study of the preservation of Southern dialect by the Confederados.

Neither an historian nor a scholar, but as a fluent Portuguese speaking American (born in Portugal) who spent half a century, both as a long time resident in Brazil and the southern United States, collecting data and contacting descendants of the Confederate migration to Brazil after the Civil War, I find this book the first real scholarly effort on an interesting, rather forgotten epic, though minor, of American history. Factually it appears correct to what I know of the people involved, then and now, from 1865 up to 1974 when I last left Brazil. However, as an academic production I find it lacks a certain feel for the "humanity" of those involved: the happiness and the tragedy, the bits and pieces of human interest that history (as do descendants changing actuality to pleasanter visions!) prefers not to speak of. There was as much sadness in the migration as there was happiness, as much failure as there was success. The human feeling, I find, is missing. Otherwise, this is a tremendous and most commendable effort on a subject long forgotten. Perhaps, though small, one of the largest planned emigrations from the United States in its history.

I knew some Southerners left the area after the war but I did not know the extent of the exodus. And I did not know as many of them went to Brazil as did. Dawsey gives a riveting account of the migration and then establishment of a life in the new country. Well worth the read for any civil war buff. Buy the book

This book is an excellent reference resource for those researching Civil War history and the migration of Southerners to Brazil after the War. The author describes well those who migrated, the difficulty of resettlement and the long term affects of the relocation. Verna Bonner

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