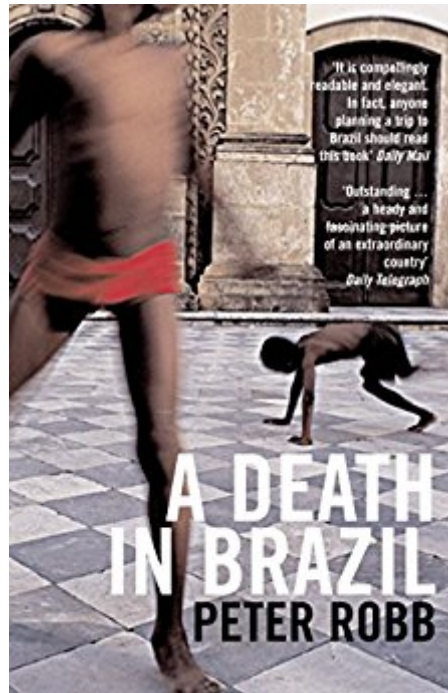




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# A Death In Brazil: A Book Of Omissions



## Synopsis

Delving into Brazil's baroque past, Peter Robb writes about its history of slavery and the richly multicultural but disturbed society that was left in its wake when the practice was abolished in the late nineteenth century. Even today, Brazil is a nation of almost unimaginable distance between its wealthy and its poor, a place of extraordinary levels of crime and violence. It is also one of the most beautiful and seductive places on earth. Using the art, food and the books of its great nineteenth-century writer, Machado de Assis, Robb takes us on a journey into a world like Conrad's *Nostromo*. A world so absurdly dramatic, like the current president Lula's fight for power, that it could have come from one of the country's immensely popular TV soap operas, a world where resolution is often only provided by death. Like all the best travel writing, *A Death in Brazil* immerses you deep into the heart of a fascinating country.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you want to know Brazil..this is the book to read...in terms of history, culture, politics, sexuality...its there. Highly recommended...a total eye-opener into day-to-day life of Brazilians...and easy to

read...keeps you wanting more and more and more.

History can be seen through the eyes of someone that lives throughout the harsh times of Brazil's political and economical changes. A death of Brazil is a book that relates the history with life experiences, anecdotes and real people's perspective of life. If you want to learn about history without getting bored with history dates and memorizing names, this book will teach you history like no other book. VERY INTERESTING and deliberating, the author's narrations about the incidents are AMAZING!!!!

Reads like a cross between a travelogue and novel. Good attention to detail. A touch of Brazilian history and insights into its polyglot denizens and the rise of the plutocrats, juxtaposed with the country's migrant poor. I'd give it 3 and a half stars if that were possible

This is an interesting book being part history of Brazil and part autobiography. The author divides his book into 3 a) early history starting with slavery and the Portuguese colonisation b) current history with rebellions and strife and c) personal experiences. He illustrates the glaring differences of rich, poor, carnival and corruption all of which rule the country. There is a first chronology from c1000BC with the arrival of indigenous people to 2003 when 140 slaves were released. An essential book for travellers to Brazil but it has a fatal flaw as it has no index.

I'm a big fan of Peter Robb's *Midnight in Sicily*. About that masterpiece, *The Economist* called it "simply the best book in English about Italy." The author's latest work, *A Death in Brazil*, promised and delivered much of the same - a heady, erudite mix of Mr. Robb's skillful interspersing of equal parts history, political machinations, and personal travelogue. For good measure, like *Midnight in Sicily* you also get a gastronomic tour de force. Robb appreciates the regional dishes and describes what brings them to the table as well as what they taste like going down, what he drank with it, who served him, who he was dining with, other characters in the restaurant that night...you get the idea. As noted in an excellent review in the UK's *Telegraph*, *A Death in Brazil* is, like *Midnight in Sicily*, "impossible to corral into a single genre" and "a dazzling testament to [Robb's] appetite for knowledge and understanding." Exactly. Mr. Robb's home base for this tale is a restaurant in Recife called *Bang & Fife*. His descriptive writing puts you square in the middle of the place, with proprietor Vavafji chatting you up and Vavafji's wife Dona Lia working the Burroughs accounting machine at the bar. For me, the best parts are the political stuff detailing the rapid rise and equally

rapid fall of Brazil's president (1990 - 1992) Fernando Collor de Mello and his personal fixer and moneyman, PC Farias. Robb also details the rise of the Workers' Party and of its leader, Luis InãfÂcio 'Lula' da Silva. We get all sorts of delightful asides from the author. 'Lula' means 'squid' in Portuguese...he is so-named because in his early days, the now-President's unruly mane of hair draped his head like a mass of tentacles. Who knew? Another good touch is the hand-drawn maps of Alex Snellgrove. There's one of Brazil as whole and another providing more detail on the northeast section of the country where Robb does the majority of his reporting. Every place Robb mentioned in the text is marked clearly on one or both maps.

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