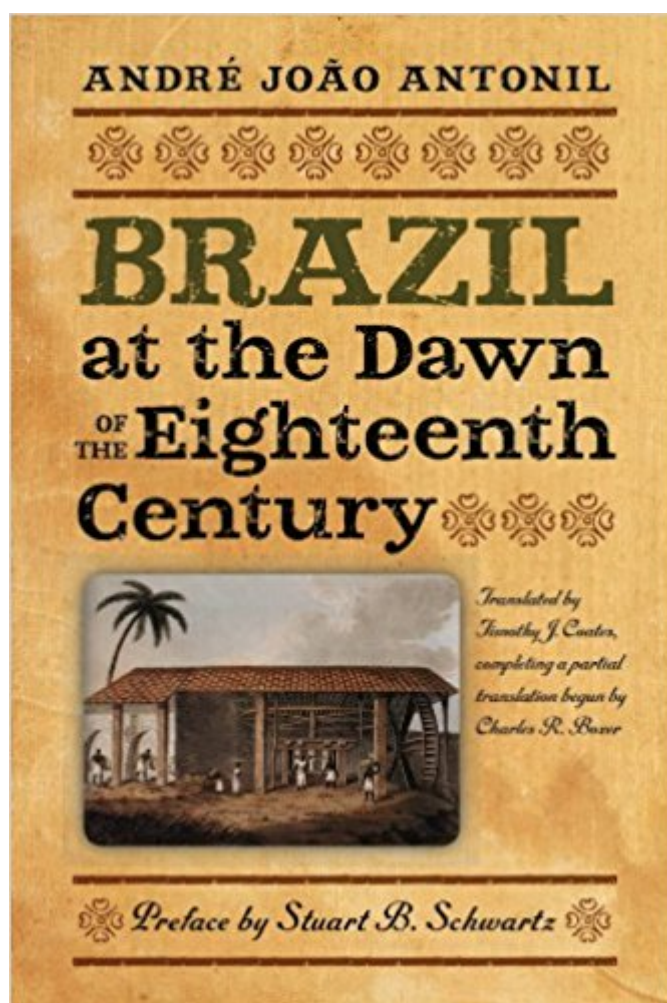


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Brazil At The Dawn Of The Eighteenth Century (Classic Histories From The Portuguese-Speaking World In Translation)



Synopsis

First published in 1711, *Brazil at the Dawn of the Eighteenth Century* describes the four major economic activities of the Brazilian colony. Half the book is devoted to the sugar industry and the social world of those who grew the sugarcane. Other sections give a detailed view of the tobacco industry. Further, this work describes where and how gold was extracted, the new and old routes connecting Minas Gerais with the coast, and the rough-and-tumble world of the miners. Antonil concludes with discussion of the economic importance of cattle, and information on Brazilian exports and taxes. No other work provides this level of eyewitness detail.

Book Information

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“There is no book that better captures the social and economic basis of Brazil in its early history.” • (Stuart B. Schwartz, Yale University) “Antonil’s book is essential to understanding the society and economy of colonial Brazil and stands as one of the most important works from the colonial period in the Americas.” • (Luiz Felipe de Alencastro, University of Paris-Sorbonne)

ANDRÉ JOÃO ANTONIL (1649–1716) was an Italian Jesuit who lived in Brazil, mostly in Bahia, from 1681 until his death. TIMOTHY COATES is a professor of history at the College of Charleston. He is the author of *Convicts and Orphans: Forced and State-Sponsored Colonization in the Portuguese Empire, 1550–1755* and (with Geraldo Pieroni) *De couto do pecado À vila de sal: Castro Marim (1550–1850)*.

This is a recent translation, by Boxer and Coates, of material written at the 'dawn' of the eighteenth century, by Jesuit priest Antonil. It is a specialist book, inserted by Schwartz into its respective historical background, but it is by no means a dry academic work. It gives a vivid picture of sugar cane and tobacco plantations, gold and silver mining, and cattle breeding. It covers technical detail as well as broader aspects of business and human relations. It deserves very serious consideration as a source of information on this time period.

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