

"If the Brazilian cultural, social, and racial tapestry has intrigued you, this book unlocks the ways in which the memory of Africa in the Afro-Brazilian performative practices of Candomblé have been reconfigured to the realities of the country. As a critical contribution to the field of Afro-Brazilian studies, this book is a highly readable and nuanced account that maps the scaffolding of Brazilian cultural history born out of the Atlantic slave trade and European imperialism."

—Fassil Demissie, DePaul University

"Sterling makes a valuable addition to the growing scholarship exploring how Afro-Brazilians are reconstructing their various identities in relation to 'Africa' especially through Candomblé religion and Carnival groups but also through other cultural manifestations, including hip-hop music and theatrical performances, as well as popular festivals."

—Ana Lucia Araujo, Howard University

Questions of Africanness and blackness rim the Afro-Brazilian sphere of interaction. What is Africa? How is it constructed by Afro-Brazilians? What do these constructions accomplish? How are they reflected in the national character? And how do these constructs lend themselves to ideations of blackness? In fact, what exactly is blackness, given that Brazil is a hybrid nation in both its ethnic composition and cultural modalities? This book examines the field of cultural and racial representation by Afro-Brazilians in Candomblé culture, public rituals, carnival, plays, poetry, and hip-hop videography and focuses on how Afro-Brazilians reposition themselves in Brazil's social and political processes.

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