

El *eternauta*, *La guerra de los Antares* y *450 años de guerra contra el imperialismo*. A través de ellas, sostiene la autora, Montoneros buscaba crear una sensibilidad política en sus lectores, valiéndose de una mirada dicotómica a través de figuras de héroes y villanos, propias del género. La temática de la “invasión” —característica de la cultura paranoide de los años de la Guerra Fría— es resemantizada por Oesterheld para identificar a los enemigos como bestias y extraterrestres. Los héroes, por su parte, rompen el esquema clásico encarnándose en sujetos colectivos: el *pueblo*, argentino o latinoamericano que enfrenta al imperialismo. El capítulo se cierra con la descripción de los escasos films que produjo Montoneros ya bajo la dictadura del Proceso de Reorganización Nacional (1976-1983), *Montoneros. Crónica de una guerra de liberación* (1977) y *Resistir* (1978). Nuevamente aquí aparece el vínculo entre el peronismo y cultura popular. Montoneros se auto inscribe en una larga tradición nacional, construyendo una memoria enraizada en los combates políticos del siglo XIX.

El trabajo de Moira Cristiá significa un verdadero aporte a la historiografía del pasado reciente. Volviendo sobre materiales aparentemente recorridos, pero que bajo la luz de instrumentos analíticos novedosos se revelan en una magnitud distinta, elabora una historia cultural de la violencia política. Entre líneas puede leerse la paradójica relación entre las prácticas culturales y el sustrato teórico del periodo. Si durante los sesenta y setenta el marxismo y el estructuralismo se convirtieron en claves hegemónicas en las lecturas de la nueva izquierda revolucionaria, queda claro que para los actores la

cultura no era un mero “reflejo” de las relaciones “reales” de poder, sino un campo de batalla en sí mismo en donde se libraba uno de los aspectos más importantes de la guerra revolucionaria.

JOSÉ ZANCA
(CONICET/UNIVERSIDAD DE
SAN ANDRÉS, BUENOS AIRES)

Peter Birle (ed.): *Brasilien. Eine Einführung*. Frankfurt am Main: Vervuert Verlag, 2013. 298 páginas.

Although Brazil has entered a difficult period since the publication of this collection of essays about Brazil, the book retains its usefulness. In the meantime, Brazil went from boom to bust. The fundamental problems that are addressed in the collection, were not resolved during the boom years, and now they show-up again stronger than before.

The contribution by Martin Coy addresses the regional disparities of this vast country. He points out that the economic heartland lies still in the South Eastern region with São Paulo at its center. The size of the geographical extension of Brazil makes it extremely hard to achieve a more balanced regional growth. Not much different as it is in other parts of the world, regional development is marked either by a vicious cycle or by a beneficial cycle. Boom feeds the boom, and bust feeds the bust. Politically and economically, it is often hopeless to reverse these trends and achieve a regionally more balanced development.

The contribution of the editor of the collection, Peter Birle, addresses structure and actors of the political system. He

provides an analytical description of Brazilian federalism and the peculiar role of political parties in Brazilian politics. He is quite optimistic in respect to the ability of achieving reforms and of maintaining governability of the country. Nevertheless, as is pointed out by the article of Bruno Wilhelm Speck, Brazil's legal system is still deficient and difficult reforms lies still ahead. This also holds for Brazilian social policy. In her contribution, Claudia Zilla addresses the concept of "growth with inclusion", which, together with the article by Jacqueline Maria Radtke that analyzes the educational system as the basis, points out the causes and consequences of the enormous social disparities that still afflict Brazil.

Hartmut Sangmeister deals in his contribution with the economy. He is quite right to point out that Brazil is still deficient when it comes to technological innovation. The economy thrives on agribusiness yet this is not enough to gain an important place in the modern globalized economy. Corruption and bureaucracy hamper the dynamics of the Brazilian economy. Without a strong economy, the vision of Brazil as a "global player" will remain an illusion. As Peter Birle points out in his contribution about Brazil's foreign policy, the country has not yet found its proper strategy as it moves away from its traditional partnership with the United States and Europe and moves closer to its peers in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Culture, city life, the media and the music scene are the subjects of the contributions by Horst Nitschack, Marcel Vejmelka, Joachim Michael and Cornelius Schlicke, while Susanne Klengel and Georg Wink describe literary life in Bra-

zil. Fank Stephan Kohl looks at Brazilian soccer and its role for Brazilian identity in light of the expectations concerning the world championship of 2014.

A contribution by Peter Birle about the German-Brazilian relations concludes the collection of articles in this book, which fully lives up to its aim of providing an "introduction" to Brazil to facilitate the understanding of this country. Each individual essay treats one specific aspect of Brazil and serves as an introduction to this specific area. Taken together, the reader obtains a well-grounded perspective about modern Brazil.

ANTONY P. MUELLER

(UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE SERGIPE)

Brian Wampler: *Activating Democracy in Brazil. Popular Participation, Social Justice and Interlocking Institutions*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015. 299 páginas.

Analizar el período reciente de la historia de Brasil requiere experiencia y paciencia, sobre todo por el complejo momento político del país. Lo que se ve ahora es la participación ciudadana, su voz y el propio concepto de democracia debatidos a diario desde los últimos escándalos de corrupción que se profundizan desde 2014, y que tienen han involucrado a todos los nombres fuertes del gobierno, incluido el presidente Michel Temer. Esos temas son los que se discute en *Activating Democracy in Brazil. Popular Participation, Social Justice and Interlocking Institutions*, pero justamente en un período anterior de análisis, específicamente entre 1988 y 2014.