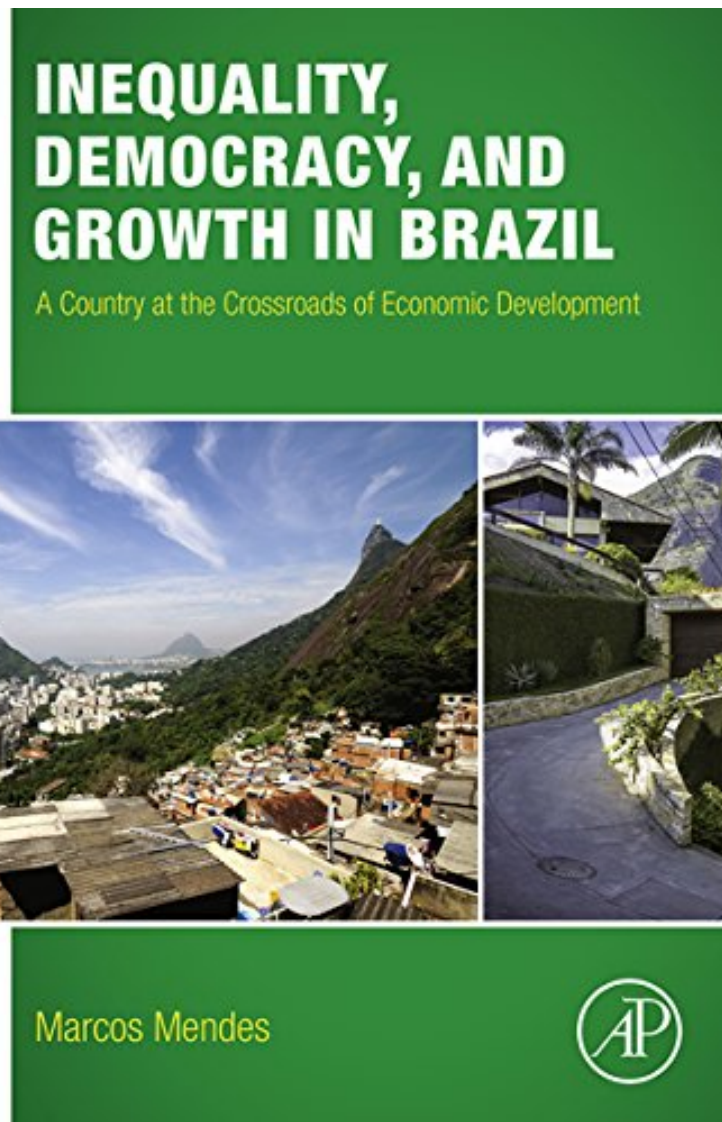


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Inequality, Democracy, and Growth in Brazil: A Country at the Crossroads of Economic Development

Marcos Mendes

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description of the economic and political challenges facing modern Brazil. It isn't an academic book, it is directed to a general audience, but the data is rigorous and well researched. It is also worth noting it was released in Portuguese in early 2014, before the magnitude of the current crisis was made clear to everyone. The author's pessimistic outlook has been validated by recent events. I read the Portuguese version so I can't speak to the translation, but I don't think that's a major issue, given the nature of the book.

In terms accessible to non-economists, Marcos Joseacute; Mendes describes the ways democracy and inequality produce low growth in the short and medium terms. In the longer term, he argues that Brazil has two paths in front of it. One is to create the conditions necessary to boost economic performance and drive the country toward a high level of development. The other is to fail in untying the political knot that blocks growth, leaving it a middle-income country. The source of his contrasting futures for Brazil is inequality, which he demonstrates is a relevant variable in any discussion of economic growth. Inequality illuminates causes of seemingly-unconnected problems. This book, which includes freely-accessible documents and datasets, is the first in-depth analysis of an issue that promises to become increasingly prominent. Contrasting visions of Brazil's future described in economic terms Easy-to-understand graphs and tables illustrate analytical arguments All Excel-based data available on a freely-accessible website

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