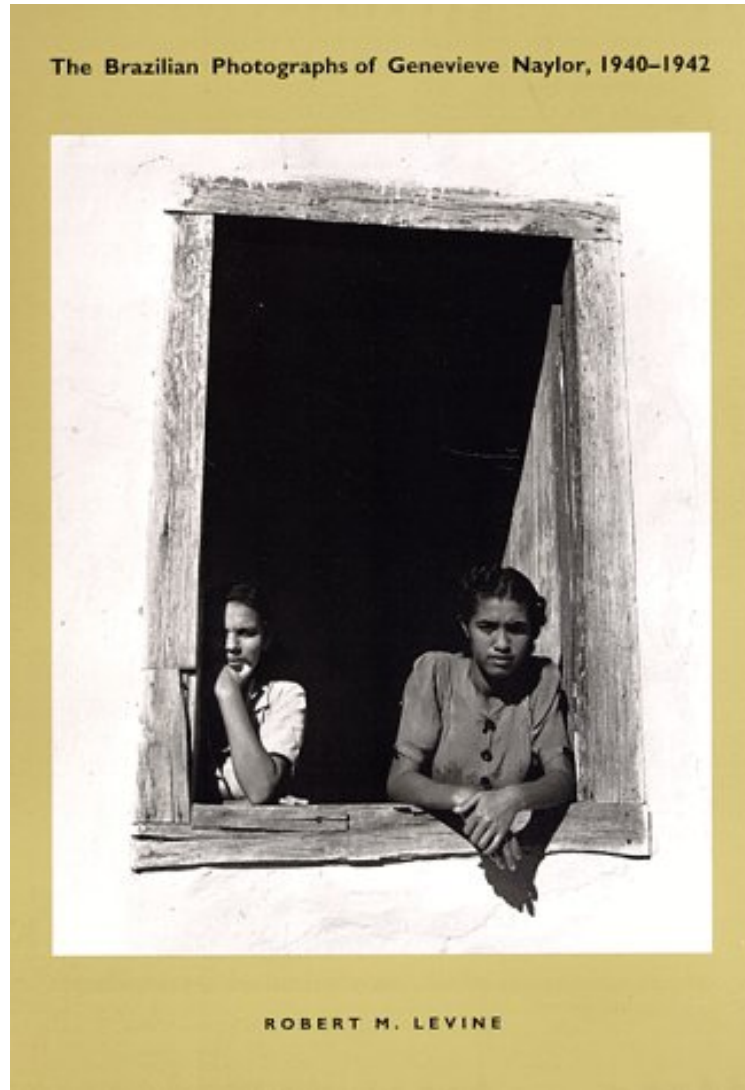


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The Brazilian Photographs of Genevieve Naylor, 1940-1942

Robert M. Levine

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Robert M. Levine : The Brazilian Photographs of Genevieve Naylor, 1940-1942 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Brazilian Photographs of Genevieve Naylor, 1940-1942:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Sensitive PhotographerBy Lola B.Wonderful photographs, of course, and the analysis ahead of the photographs and the biographical details are well worth reading.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Haunting photos of Brazililans during early 1940sBy A CustomerThe photographer, Genevieve Naylor, went to Brazil after working for the Associated Press and the Roosevelt administration's photographic corps. She brought to her assignment a wonderful eye for composition and an affection

for the simple aspects of Brazilian life. This is a compelling book that is beautifully printed and handsomely presented. The author does an excellent job of setting the scene, too. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully-reproposed photographs of 1940s Brazil. By A Customer. Genevieve Naylor was a PSA photographer hired by Nelson Rockefeller to travel through Brazil and document how American's wartime allies lives and worked. Her large format, beautifully printed photos reveal the texture of life in a proud and vibrant country. The author of this book provides clear and highly insightful analysis of the historical context in which to understand and appreciate Naylor's genius.

In the early 1940s as the conflict between the Axis and the Allies spread worldwide, the U.S. State Department turned its attention to Axis influence in Latin America. As head of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, Nelson Rockefeller was charged with cultivating the regions support for the Allies while portraying Brazil and its neighbors as dependable wartime partners. Genevieve Naylor, a photojournalist previously employed by the Associated Press and the WPA, was sent to Brazil in 1940 by Rockefellers agency to provide photographs that would support its need for propaganda. Often balking at her mundane assignments, an independent-minded Naylor produced something far different and far more richa stunning collection of over a thousand photographs that document a rarely seen period in Brazilian history. Accompanied by analysis from Robert M. Levine, this selection of Naylor's photographs offers a unique view of everyday life during one of modern Brazils least-examined decades. Working under the constraints of the Vargas dictatorship, the instructions of her employers, and a chronic shortage of film and photographic equipment, Naylor took advantage of the freedom granted her as an employee of the U.S. government. Traveling beyond the fashionable neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro, she conveys in her work the excitement of an outside observer for whom all is fresh and new along with a sensibility schooled in depression-era documentary photography of Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans, as well as the work of Cartier-Bresson and filmmaker Serge Eisenstein. Her subjects include the very rich and the very poor, black Carnival dancers, fishermen, rural peasants from the interior, workers crammed into trolleys ordinary Brazilians in their own setting rather than simply Brazilian symbols of progress as required by the dictatorship or a population viewed as exotic Latins for the consumption of North American travelers. With Levines text providing details of Naylor's life, perspectives on her photographs as social documents, and background on Brazils wartime relationship with the United States, this volume, illustrated with more than one hundred of Naylor's Brazilian photographs will interest scholars of Brazilian culture and history, photojournalists and students of photography, and all readers seeking a broader perspective on Latin American culture during World War II. Genevieve Naylor began her career as a photojournalist with Time, Fortune, and the Associated Press before being sent to Brazil. In 1943, upon her return, she became only the second woman to be the subject of a one-woman show at New Yorks Museum of Modern Art. She served as Eleanor Roosevelts personal photographer and, in the 1950s and 1960s became well known for her work in Harpers Bazaar, primarily as a fashion photographer and portraitist. She died in 1989.

Genevieve Naylor was one of many Americans, including Orson Wells, Walt Disney, and Errol Flynn dispatched to Brazil to help strengthen the war-time alliance. Her photographs, perhaps the largest surviving body of work portraying the country during the war years, concentrated on ordinary people and captured their everyday struggles, optimism, and inner spirit. Robert M. Levines sensitive and intelligent introduction and wonderful sampling of Naylor's work are sure to delight photography enthusiasts and historians. Colin M. MacLachlan, Tulane University