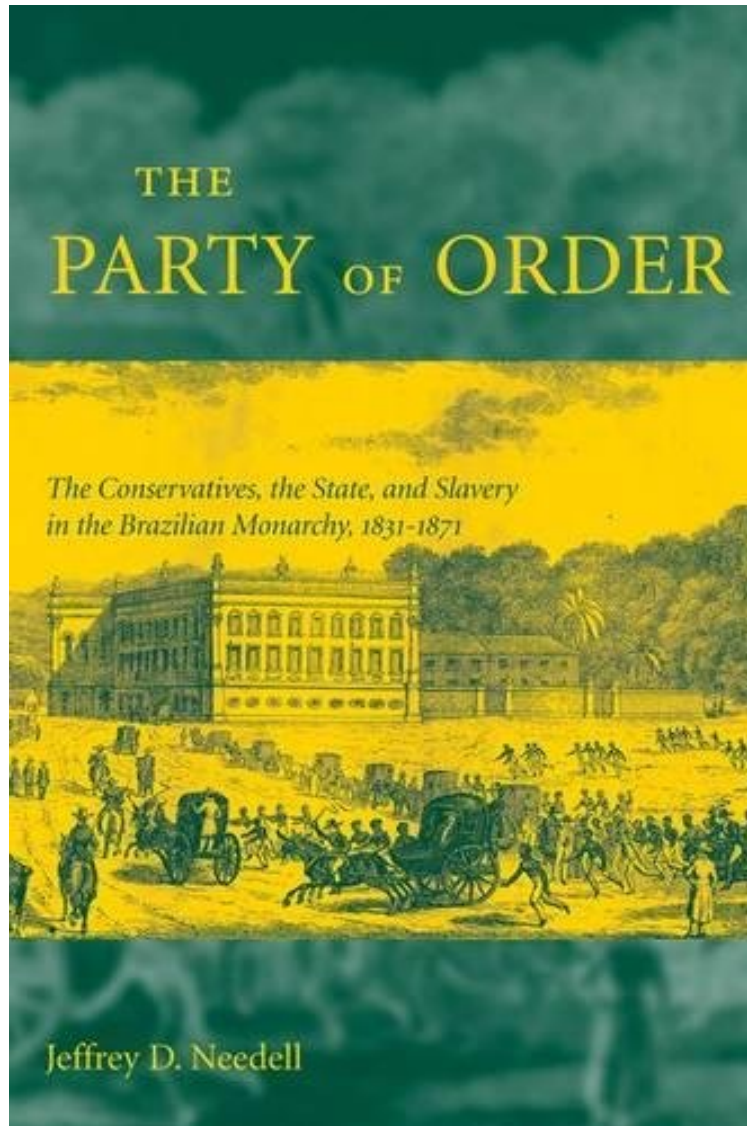


(Mobile ebook) The Party of Order: The Conservatives, the State, and Slavery in the Brazilian Monarchy, 1831-1871

The Party of Order: The Conservatives, the State, and Slavery in the Brazilian Monarchy, 1831-1871

Jeffrey D. Needell

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Jeffrey D. Needell : The Party of Order: The Conservatives, the State, and Slavery in the Brazilian Monarchy, 1831-1871 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Party of Order: The Conservatives, the State, and Slavery in the Brazilian Monarchy, 1831-1871:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An extraordinary political history of imperial Brazil By LecenFor a

long period of time, historiography has focused on social classes to explain the development of Brazilian politics during the 19th century. Although useful to a certain extent, this approach is compromised by reducing individuals to homogeneous groups, which is far from being true to reality. Jeffrey D. Needell's "The Party of Order" is an excellent work and has all the ingredients to become the definitive source to understand Brazilian politics between 1831 and 1870. This is a rare book in which the people in it, no matter the role they played, even if small ones, are given a well rounded, a tridimensional feel to them. You can almost see, touch and feel persons like emperor Pedro II, Honrio Hermeto, Bernardo Pereira de Vasconcelos and the Viscount of Uruguay, among many others. These are real people, with real traits and real motivations. They are not given labels and reduced to that. Despite the title, "The Party of Order" is actually a political history of Brazil, and not merely the history of one political party (unlike what the previous review seems to indicate). It works well not only because of how the historical figures in it are portrayed as real people, with qualities and flaws (some with greater and lesser of each), but because it explains the environment, the world in which this people lived, all based on solid research. The sheer amount of primary sources employed is extraordinary and you can see that Needell did his job, and he did it well. The reference section is amazing and provides further comments and information that greatly improve the overall text. The politicians were often slave owners, with keen interest in preserving that institution, and Needell correctly points that out (vehemently and constantly, in fact). However, he is just as correct in showing that by supporting a political system based on constitutional representative government, they could have allowed Brazil to develop and make necessary reforms through legal forms, even if slower, instead of relying on coups or dictatorial acts as it happened later on, during the republican era. In a way, Needell shows a Brazil that had similar characteristics to early United States: you had all these statesmen (Washington, Jefferson and others) who owned slaves, but who had set the foundation for a political system that could become more democratic in time, and make the necessary reforms (which it did, eventually). Needell is neither warm to Brazilian conservatives, nor to the emperor (two opposing sides that clashed from the beginning to the end of the monarchy). He criticizes both, for the reason stated above regarding the former, but in the case of Pedro II, for his attempts to aggrandize his powers, diminishing the parliament's independence and agency, setting the stage for all later authoritarian leaders, like Vargas and the military regime. Was he a good man with good intentions? Yes. But by doing what did, eroding the foundation of the constitutional representative system, for a good cause (abolishing slavery), he paved the way to others who didn't have reasons as decent as his. Imperial Brazil in Needell's eyes is an undemocratic, hierarchic, exclusive and prejudiced country, but which had all the necessary institutions to overcome that. It failed, because the emperor did what he did, and the politicians were uncompromising and (in many occasions) too narrow to allow any major reforms that could accommodate women, former slaves and the poor. Is this book worth it? Yes. Without a doubt. It is the history of how the ends usually do not justify the means. And those means can provide harmful consequences on the long run that will neglect any positive outcome from the end. It is worth noting that this book is far more enjoyable and easier to follow if you've read Roderick J. Barman's "Brazil: The Forging of a Nation" and "Citizen Emperor: Pedro II and the making of Brazil." 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must-have book on Brazilian political history during the imperial era. By Customer "The Party of Order" is an excellent work, especially as a political history of Brazil between 1831 and 1871, that is, from the beginning of Emperor Pedro II's reign to his apogee, when he was able to pass the law that gave freedom to children born of slave women. The main argument proposed by Needell is that political parties had ideologies and were distinct of each other. In fact, members of each parties had ideological differences among themselves. The reference matter is extraordinary, providing more information on people and events. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fair and Balanced -- Not By Sam Diego Biographers are sometimes accused of getting too close to their subject, but one can be just as absorbed in a period or a place as with a personality, and the result can be happy or deleterious. With Needell's fascinating study The Party of Order, it is both. In the elite venues of 19th century Rio de Janeiro he has found himself a comfortable bailiwick, and though readers may wince at his admiration for the political acumen of reactionary slaveholders, still they will appreciate his easy command of a wide variety of archival and other documentary sources from Brazil. He offers not a cursory look but a meticulous (if overly-referenced) investigation of the conservative elites of the Empire that stops one step short of an apologia. Whether such an approach really throws light on the Empire, it is surely interesting. Where the majority of scholars have found an improvised system of clientele upholding the imperial system of the two Pedros, Needell sees a consistent or near-consistent ideology guiding the system over a period of some fifty years. He may very well be right about this base of information (parliamentary records, official gazettes, and memoirs) is extensive and detailed. But his analysis suffers from a lack of balance: his text provides no comparable (and certainly no sympathetic) look at Brazilian liberals such that we can understand the overall picture of Brazilian politics under the Empire. Both liberals and conservatives were part of a common elite culture and the one was no more illegitimate than the other. His focus is too centered on Rio de Janeiro. Needell's success in defining a place, a class, and an attitude thus obscures a greater failure to interact with the broader Brazilian society he seeks to elucidate. It seems likely that readers in Brazil and elsewhere will continue to consult Emilia Viotti, Sergio Buarque, Richard Graham, and Jose Murilo on the politics of the Empire, while Needell's undoubted contribution is unlikely to receive the attention it deserves. A sad if predictable story.

This study analyzes Brazil's monarchy, which adapted European ideas and practices to a creole plantation society that was traditionally based on African slavery. It focuses upon the Conservatives, who represented the sugar and coffee elites in reconstructing the new nation's state as a strong, representative, constitutional monarchy in troubled times. After the monarch himself assumed power, however, his views undercut parliamentary and party government, which were also sapped by regional differences and the pressure for state patronage. Increasingly, the emperor and his cabinets used state patronage and state authority to dominate politics. When the emperor decided upon gradualist abolition, Conservatives were unable to defeat it, despite its unconstitutional origin and imposition and its threat to the society and economy they represented. The legacy of an authoritarian, centralized political culture survived; that of a representative, constitutional regime did not. This book dramatically revises notions of the monarchy in terms of the social and ideological origins and nature of the Brazilian state, the role of the monarch, and the range and complexity of elite politics in the era.

"Needell has produced a detailed, elegantly written book about the Regency and most of the Second Empire...His lively narrative, judicious quotes, and thumbnail biographies make this both enjoyable and essential reading for historians of Brazil." (Colonial Latin American Historical)"This work is a very considerable contribution to our understanding of Brazil's emergence as a nation-state. It provides a historical explanation of why Brazil continues to be almost two centuries after independence highly hierarchical, conservative, and unequal in terms of race, education and wealth. This book is no less valuable as a study of the emergence and the dynamics of party politics in Imperial Brazil." (Roderick J. Barman, Professor Emeritus)"Needell's monumental work on Brazil's second empire makes a major contribution to our understanding of the monarchy, slavery, imperial politics and the importance of ideology in Brazilian history. The product of many years of painstaking research, the book fills the longstanding need for a sophisticated political and ideological history of the period a subject that languished too long in relative neglect. Needell has succeeded in bringing the world of imperial politicians to us in its many complexities. His judgments are sober and balanced, his analyses persuasive, and his extensive documentation a rich mine for further research. In sheer scope his examination of powerful political families, their kinship and clientage networks, and their roles in the history of parties and parliament makes this a foundational work for all subsequent scholarship on Brazil." (Conference on Latin American History Warren Dean Prize)From the Inside Flap This study analyzes Brazil's monarchy, which adapted European ideas and practices to a creole plantation society that was traditionally based on African slavery. It focuses upon the Conservatives, who represented the sugar and coffee elites in reconstructing the new nation's state as a strong, representative, constitutional monarchy in troubled times. After the monarch himself assumed power, however, his views undercut parliamentary and party government, which were also sapped by regional differences and the pressure for state patronage. Increasingly, the emperor and his cabinets used state patronage and state authority to dominate politics. When the emperor decided upon gradualist abolition, Conservatives were unable to defeat it, despite its unconstitutional origin and imposition and its threat to the society and economy they represented. The legacy of an authoritarian, centralized political culture survived; that of a representative, constitutional regime did not. This book dramatically revises notions of the monarchy in terms of the social and ideological origins and nature of the Brazilian state, the role of the monarch, and the range and complexity of elite politics in the era.