



# Transforming Brazil: A History of National Development in the Postwar Era (Routledge Studies in Latin American Politics)

By Rafael R. Ioris

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In this book, Rafael R. Ioris critically revisits the postwar context in Brazil to reexamine traditional questions and notions pertaining to the nature of Latin America's political culture and institutions. It was in this period that the region lived some of its most intense and successful experiences of fast economic growth, which was paradoxically marred by heightened ideological divisions, political disruptions, and the emergence of widespread authoritarian rule.

Combining original sources of political, diplomatic, intellectual, cultural, and labor histories, Ioris provides a comprehensive history of the fruitful debates concerning national development in postwar Brazil, a time when the so-called *country of the future* faced one of its best moments for consolidating political democracy and economic prosperity. He argues that traditional views on political instability have been excessively grounded on an institutional focus, which should be replaced by in-depth analysis of events on the ground. In so doing, he reveals that as national development meant very different things to multiple different social segments of the Brazilian society, no unified support could have been provided to the democratically elected political regime when things rapidly became socially and politically divisive early in the 1960s.

Innovating in its multidimensional analytical scope and interdisciplinary focus, *Transforming Brazil* provides a rich political, cultural, and intellectual examination of a historical period characterized by rapid socio-economic changes amidst significant political instability and the heightened ideological polarization shaping the political scenario of Brazil and much of Latin America in the Cold War era.

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### Review

"This well-researched and engaging study makes a provocative case that Brazilian developmentalism had heretofore unidentified political consequences that shaped the nation throughout the second half of the twentieth century and beyond. Ioris turns the conventional wisdom on its head by locating the origins of the 1964 military coup in the developmentalism of the 1950s. This innovative argument will no doubt spark debate on twentieth-century Brazilian and Latin American political economy."

?Joel Wolfe, *University of Massachusetts*

"Rafael Ioris properly dispels the notion of late 1950s Brazil as embodied in the image of a smiling Juscelino Kubitschek overseeing the construction of Brasília and a dispute-free march towards national development. Ioris delves into the era's ideological debates and the lives of working-class people to provide us with a more realistic view of the challenges inherent in transformative human endeavors. Ultimately, Ioris sheds critical light on the years leading up to one of the most intriguing yet tragic developments of modern Latin America: the overthrow of Brazil's democratically elected government in 1964. Ioris's work is a must-read for anybody wishing to comprehend Brazil's subsequent efforts to further project itself globally."

?Kenneth P. Serbin, *University of San Diego*

"Drawing on a vast array of published and archival sources, Rafael Ioris has produced a sophisticated analysis of the debates about national development in postwar Brazil. This study offers fresh insights into the hopes and dreams of an impressive array of interest groups?including politicians, technocrats, labor leaders and many others?who sought to make the 'country of the future' into a developed nation."

?Marshall C. Eakin, *Vanderbilt University*

"This well-researched book offers a rich picture of the trajectory of development in the JK years and will serve as a valuable reference."

?Thomas D. Rogers, *Emory University*

### About the Author

**Rafael R. Ioris** is Assistant Professor of Latin American History at the University of Denver. He holds a Ph.D. from Emory University in Latin American History with a concentration on Modern Brazil. His research interests include the history of political ideologies and comparative development in Latin America and U.S.-Latin America relations. He has authored and co-authored articles published in various prestigious journals including the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research*, *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy*, and *Foro Internacional*.

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