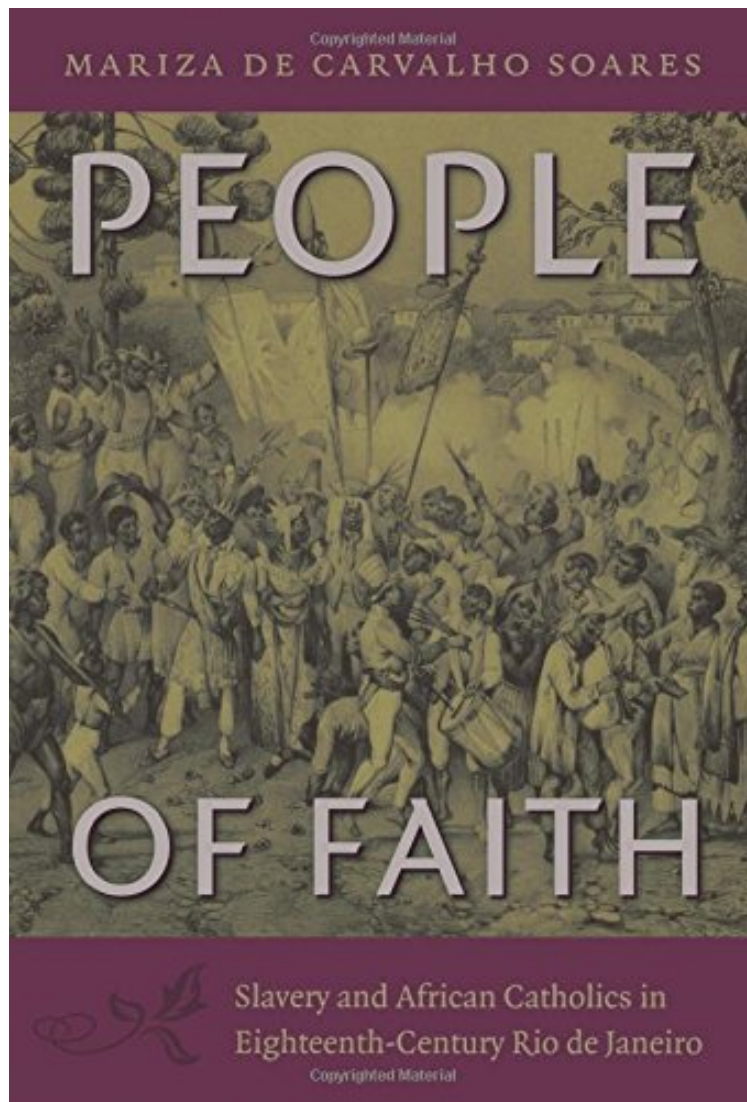


(Read now) People of Faith: Slavery and African Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro (Latin America in Translation)

People of Faith: Slavery and African Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro (Latin America in Translation)

Mariza de Carvalho Soares

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Mariza de Carvalho Soares : **People of Faith: Slavery and African Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro (Latin America in Translation)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised People of Faith: Slavery and African Catholics in Eighteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro (Latin

America in Translation):

In *People of Faith*, Mariza de Carvalho Soares reconstructs the everyday lives of Mina slaves transported in the eighteenth century to Rio de Janeiro from the western coast of Africa, particularly from modern-day Benin. She describes a Catholic lay brotherhood formed by the enslaved Mina congregants of a Rio church, and she situates the brotherhood in a panoramic setting encompassing the historical development of the Atlantic slave trade in West Africa and the ethnic composition of Mina slaves in eighteenth-century Rio. Although Africans from the Mina Coast constituted no more than ten percent of the slave population of Rio, they were a strong presence in urban life at the time. Soares analyzes the role that Catholicism, and particularly lay brotherhoods, played in Africans construction of identities under slavery in colonial Brazil. As in the rest of the Portuguese empire, black lay brotherhoods in Rio engaged in expressions of imperial pomp through elaborate festivals, processions, and funerals; the election of kings and queens; and the organization of royal courts. Drawing mainly on ecclesiastical documents, Soares reveals the value of church records for historical research.

People of Faith tells a complex story of the ways in which African peoples in the diaspora developed social bonds and organized collective associations that cultivated and promoted a common cultural and social identity [I]t offers a useful new framework through which students and scholars in the field of African diaspora can understand cultural development and identity formation. - Mariana L. R. Dantas, *American Historical*