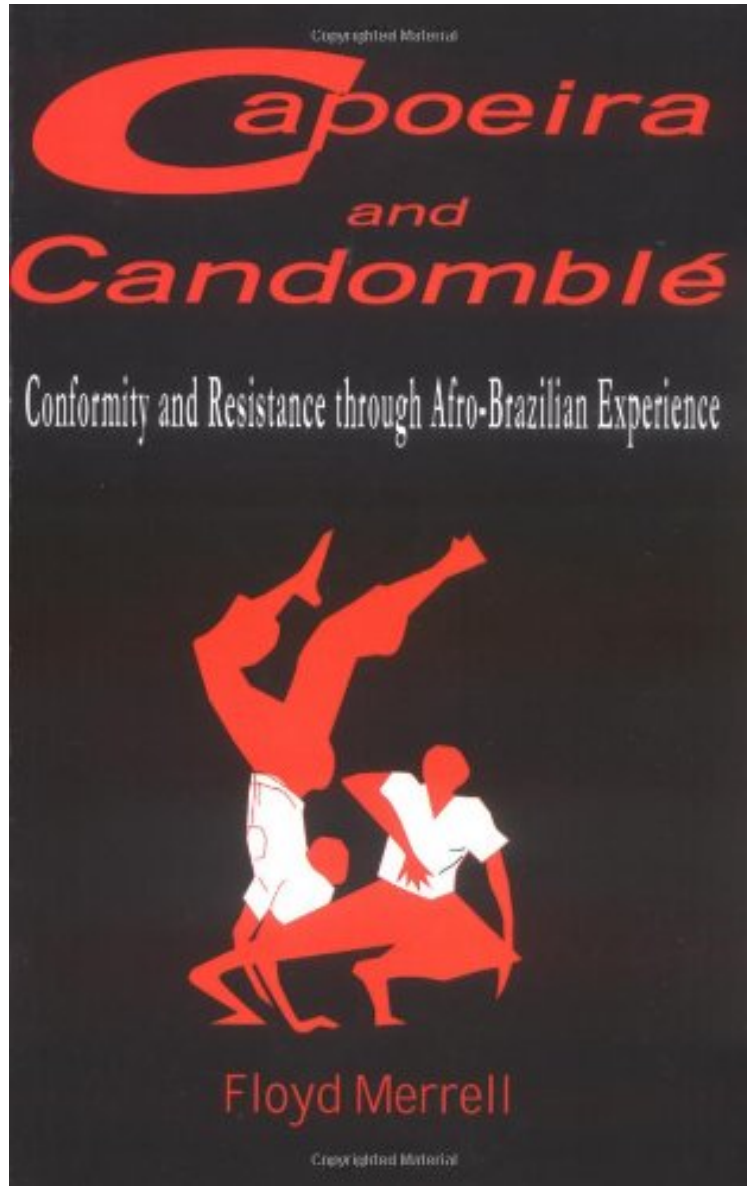


(Download pdf ebook) Capoeira and Candombl: Conformity And Resistance In Brazil

Capoeira and Candombl: Conformity And Resistance In Brazil

Floyd Merrell

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Floyd Merrell : Capoeira and Candombl: Conformity And Resistance In Brazil before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capoeira and Candombl: Conformity And Resistance In Brazil:

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By nicole brimmer
This is a great book, gives an indepth look into Brazilian culture, Candomblé and Capoeira practices. Well worth the read.
6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Playing in the "bodymindspirit"
By Nancy L. Watterson
Merrell's book offers a fresh perspective on the tradition of capoeira, particularly with his emphasis on the influences of candomblé. Merrell builds upon and references Mestre Acordeon's often-cited insights (of "playing in the dark," "playing in water," "playing in the light," "playing with the crystal ball," and "playing in the mind"), attempting to explain to readers the feel and power of "playing in the bodymindspirit." For those who like pondering ways of being (i.e. notions of "becoming," of ambiguity, and of the processual)--and I do--this work is truly enjoyable. While this book may be a bit weighty or academically abstract and philosophical for some capoeiristas' tastes, Merrrell's work fills an important niche in 8-10 top books in English written on the subject. As but one example of his scholarly flights of imagination, see his handling of Exu, trickster by default, and the complexities of moving beyond "either/or" and "both/and" thinking to a third way of thinking, or "thirdness." Expect coverage of complex topics, a bit of "jargon" (appropriate for a scholarly work well-informed by years of research in Latin American history)--and you'll be rewarded with a book that makes you go "hmmmmmm." Axe ASCAB

Capoeira is a unique music-dance-sport-play activity created by African slaves in Brazil, and Candomblé is a hybrid religion combining Catholic and African beliefs and practices. The two are closely interconnected. Capoeira and Candomblé have for centuries made up a coherent form of Brazilian life, despite having been suppressed by the dominant cultures. Now they are not only widely recognized in Brazil, but have become popular in North America and Europe as a new blend of sports, dance, and holistic approach to many facets of life. For Western audiences, Capoeira performance and Candomblé services are fun to watch and participate in, but difficult to understand. Both have apparently familiar elements, but this seeming conformity with the dominant cultures was for 400 years a strategy of resistance by Brazilian slaves. The author offers his own reflections about Capoeira and Candomblé, combining personal experiences with anecdotes, historical facts, and research as well as religious and philosophical interpretations, both Western and non-Western. The result is informative and entertaining, a description and analysis that allows readers to get a feeling, understanding, and even experience of the spirit of Capoeira and Candomblé.

About the Author
FLOYD MERRELL, who is a professor of linguistics at Purdue University and the author of over 20 books, spends part of each year in Salvador (Bahia) in Brazil, where he practices and lives what he describes in this book.