

CENTRO DE PESQUISA E DOCUMENTAÇÃO DE HISTÓRIA CONTEMPORÂNEA DO BRASIL (CPDOC)

CPDOC is a research center of contemporary Brazilian history; as such, its studies focus mainly on the period beginning 1930, a turning point in the history of the country. A part of the Institute of Public Law and Political Science, CPDOC was created in 1973, when President Getúlio Vargas' archive was donated to the Fundação Getúlio Vargas. It has two main objectives: (1) to organize and preserve the private archives of statesmen and politicians, putting them at the disposal of researchers; and (2) to develop its own research. The combination of archivist and research functions integrates the various sectors, as each relies on the other as a source for information. CPDOC is divided into the following sectors: Archives and Bibliographical Information, Oral History, Brazilian Historical-Biographical Dictionary, Research, and Brazilianiana.

Archives and Bibliographical Information. One function of this sector is the organization of private archives belonging to persons who have had an influence on the political life of the country. These archives are donated either by the holder or by his family. Each is organized as a separate unit, so as to preserve its original identity, and is usually composed of: private and political correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, films, and records. The correspondence is organized in chronological order and, when necessary, grouped into dossiers according to each subject. These are then summarized so that the researcher need not look through the archive itself, but selects from the summary those documents he wants to read. There are seventeen archives now at the Center, and nine more have been donated. Nine archives are ready for research; the others are still in the process of being organized. Besides these archives, there are eighteen smaller collections. The second function is the organization of printed material belonging to the archives, such as books, pamphlets, reviews, and magazines, and the centralization of all bibliographical information necessary for the functioning of the other sectors of CPDOC and their research work.

Oral History. This sector deals with the interviews of politically influential persons, so as to record the views of their own participation in the events of their time. The criteria for selection are based on the active involvement of these persons in the events prior to and following the revolutions of 1930. Two researchers are responsible for each series of interviews, prepared for by a thorough investigation of the life of the person in question and of the period and events in which he was involved.

Brazilian Historical-Biographical Dictionary. The objective of this sector is to publish a dictionary that will summarize the history of the period from 1930 to the present. It will be divided into two main sections: (1) subjects—composed of

approximately 1,000 notes on items such as political parties, organizations, and movements; newspaper and other media; foreign relations; economic history; the armed forces; political history; etc.; and (2) biographies—comprising approximately 4,000 notes, covering all the presidents and vice-presidents of the republic, candidates to these offices, secretaries, governors, supreme court judges, congressmen, military chiefs, university deans, political journalists, mayors of Rio and São Paulo, important diplomats, members of the Catholic Church, and other persons of political influence.

Research. This sector integrates the information obtained in the archives of CPDOC with outside sources such as newspapers, interviews, bibliographies. Its objective is to study at length the post-1930 period, focusing on the interpretation of its most critical moments. It will publish a series of studies on this period.

Braziliana. This sector will research the ideology of the post-1930 period, focusing on the main authors of the time and analyzing the influence of their thought in the process of change that characterized this historical moment.