

Foreword

It is my pleasure to recommend this book for every student, researcher and diplomat interested in the Brazilian – Central European relations. My congratulations to all the authors for their contributions, and especially to editor Sándor Gyula Nagy, a well-known Latin America expert in Hungary. He is a Professor at the Corvinus University of Budapest and Chief Advisor of the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy, whose dedication and services for improving the Brazilian–Hungarian bilateral relations was recently acknowledged by the Federative Republic of Brazil with the Official Grade of the Rio Branco Order.

Brazil is a distant country, perhaps even a little exotic for most Central Europeans, but we are linked together through historical ties. Maria Leopoldina, daughter of Emperor Francis of Austria, who was also King of Hungary, oversaw the birth of an independent Brazil in 1822 as Princess Regent, and later as Empress of Brazil. His son, Pedro II visited the Austro–Hungarian Monarchy as Emperor of Brazil in 1871. By that time, many Central Europeans, including Hungarians, had found their new home in Brazil as a consequence of revolutions and other political upheavals, or due to mere economic necessity. The turbulent 20th century also contributed to the growth of the Central European diaspora in Brazil. Likewise, Brazilians are also present in the Visegrád countries: since 2010, more than two thousand students have arrived to study in Central European, mostly Hungarian universities. After decades marked by political and economic transition, as well as the global economic crisis of the early years of the 21st century and the recent pandemic, these communities have been vital to help us strengthen existing connections and build new ones.

The objective of strengthening relations between Brazil and the Visegrád Four is in part determined by economic motives as they represent uncharted territory to one another in terms of trade and investment opportunities. However, these cannot be fulfilled without prosperous cultural, scientific and human connections. I hope this book will contribute to a better understanding and building new ties between us.

Oroslyá Pacsay-Tomassich, PhD

State Secretary for the Hungarian Diplomatic Academy and the Stipendium Hungaricum
Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade