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Foucault in Brazil: Dictatorship, Resistance, Solidarity

Philosopher Michel Foucault's cultural criticism crosses disciplines and is well known as an influence on modern conception of knowledge and power. Less well known are the five trips he took to Brazil between 1965 and 1976. Although a coup in 1964 had installed a military dictatorship, Foucault kept his opinion on the Brazilian government largely to himself until October 23, 1975. On that date, he delivered a manifesto at a student assembly in São Paulo expressing his solidarity with students and professor protesting a wave of arrests and torture. This manifesto caught the government's attention and became the focal point of the dictatorship's surveillance of Foucault. Foucault in Brazil explores the production of the public antagonism between the philosopher and the dictatorship through a meticulous consideration of each of his visits to Brazil. Marcelo Hoffman connects history, philosophy, and political theory to open new ways of thinking about Foucault as a person and thinker and about Brazil and authoritarianism.