



Professor Hecht's and da Cunha's own (translated) words - and a broader history of exploration and competing imperialisms in the rainforest in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Hecht bookends da Cunha's own journey with details of his life before and after the expedition - including a fascinating series of chapters on the Canudos war and da Cunha's book about it, *Os Sertes*; and the tragedy of da Cunha's murder by his wife's lover before da Cunha could finish his planned novel about the . Highly recommended reading. The only critique that I have of this book has nothing to do with Hecht's scholarship or narrative, both of which are first rate, educational and entertaining. Unfortunately, the text is riddled with missing prepositions, pronouns, and articles, and has occasional misspellings (e.g. Shouldn't the Treaty of San Idelfonso of 1777 (p. 95) be spelled Ildefonso, as it is in the accompanying map (and elsewhere in historical writings)? And though I'm no expert on historical Portuguese, shouldn't "undiscovered," on p. 87, rather than "no descoberto," be "no descoberto"? In chapters on the Canudos war, sometimes the Baron of Jeremoabo becomes the Baron of Jemoabo... Finally, in several places in the text sentences are missing the appropriate "the" or "of," etc.). The University of Chicago Press may need to outsource its copy editing and proofreading to a more reliable company. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant tapestry of themes that challenges many misconceptions of the By ABAThis is several books in one: a fascinating blend of geography, politics and history. It focuses on period of Brazilian history the rubber boom that has been amply covered in the literature, but rarely perceived as a full-blown scramble by imperial powers similar to that in Africa. In both cases, the imperial powers perceived the continents as essentially empty and its natural resources there for the taking. The Scramble for the also brings to life the portions of an unfinished book by one of Brazil's greatest authors, Euclides da Cunha, whose profound insights and lyrical writing reveal unique aspects of the region that challenge romantic misperceptions, such as the strange sensations of traveling through it, and the miserable existence of rubber tappers who less than a century later became global heroes as defenders of the forest. The Scramble weaves a complex but rich tapestry of themes that will enchant those readers who already are fascinated with the region. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Amazing story of the By David TurnerA riveting, thoughtful, and brilliant story, an engaging and intelligent voice. History, politics, race, culture, imperialism, exploits of capital and romance. And the events described parallel today so closely, it's hard to tell if the history is ripped from today's headlines, or the other way around.

Hecht launches this feast of a book with a moving account of the Canudos rebellion. . . . Monumental. . . . Compelling and elegantly written. The author's deep knowledge of the and its history bursts from every page with the exuberance of a tropical rainforest. The Scramble for the is a revelation of a period, region, and cast of characters unknown to many readers. It will long remain the definitive account of this episode of South American history.