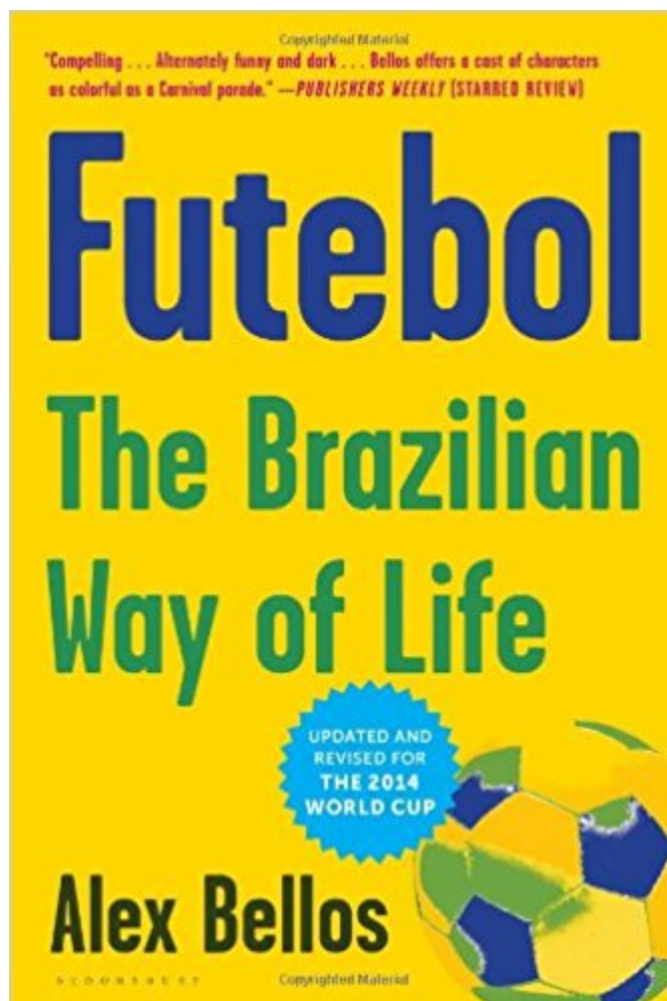


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Futebol: The Brazilian Way Of Life



Synopsis

Since the 1950s, when Pelé first started playing, soccer has been how the world sees Brazil, but it is also how Brazilians see themselves. The essence of their game is one in which prodigious individual skills outshine team tactics, where dribbles and delicate flicks are preferred over physical challenges or long-distance passes, where technique has all the elements of dance and, indeed, is often described as such. At their best, Brazilian soccer players are both athletes and artists. As Alex Bellos brilliantly reveals in his classic book, their game can symbolize racial harmony, flamboyance, youth, innovation, and skill—in short, it's a microcosm of the country itself. Bellos, a veteran journalist and author whose star has continued to rise since *Futebol* was first published in 2002, revisits his search for what the great Brazilian striker Ronaldo has called the "true truth" of the Brazilian way of life. With an unerring eye for an illustrative story and a pitch-perfect ear for the voices of the people he meets, Bellos uncovers the nuanced role soccer has played in the history of Brazil and the lives of its people. Updated and with a new chapter covering recent events in Brazil, this revised edition of *Futebol* is perfectly timed to coincide with the 2014 World Cup, as the world turns its rapt attention to Brazil and their Beautiful Game and the country once again becomes the capital of "the world's game."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Compelling . . . Alternately funny and dark . . . Bellos offers a cast of characters as colorful as a Carnival parade.”
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)
“It’s a bonus that Bellos’ aim is not just to amuse, but to find meaning and context behind the spectacle . . . Bellos

weaves a tapestry of contemporary Brazil from football threads as divergent as the great Pelé and the glamorous Roza FC, perhaps the world's only all-transvestite team . . . rich and colorful. —New York Newsday —“Required reading. —Soccer America —“Alex Bellos traces [soccer's] evolution in Brazil, and emerges with a fascinating portrait of Brazil itself, a land of deep contradictions and an even deeper love for the game that bridges those contradictions...With a seasoned reporter's knack for dredging up curios, he unveils one variation on the game after another. —San Antonio Express News

Alex Bellos has a degree in mathematics and philosophy from Oxford University. He has worked for the Guardian in London and Rio de Janeiro. In 2002, he wrote the critically acclaimed original edition of *Futebol* and in 2006 ghostwrote Pelé's autobiography, which was a number one bestseller. He lives in London.

This book is a must read for any Brazilian soccer fan. I had never read any of Alex Bellos' previous works, but he really completed plenty of research to write this book. Every aspect of Brazilian soccer aspect is covered and he covers this with a keen eye for soccer. I personally do not follow the Brazilian soccer league, but any soccer fan could easily read this even with its length. After the debacle that 2014 was for Brazil's World Cup this book was even more enjoyable. Great read!

An OK read. The best chapters are at the end, regarding corruption in the CBF and the interview with Socrates.

A bit dense and hard to read, but a good book to better understand Brazilian culture and history.

Excellent read

Yes, this is a time where publishers are scrambling for every World Cup dollar. They are looking to take advantage of the increased interest in the game and the huge audience that comes with it every four years. Well Bloomsbury has come up with an incredible read in *Futebol: The Brazilian Way of Life* by Alex Bellos. This is a previously released title with some major updates and revisions specifically for the 2014 World Cup. It is well worth your time. It is a journey through the history of Brazilian football, one that is truly remarkable in every regard. We loved the fact that Bellos walked this journey from multiple perspectives. The preface comes from Brazilian national team legend

SãfÂ crates. The opening chapter talks about Brazilians playing in faraway places, in this case, the footballing netherworld of the Faroe Islands. This chapter features some of the best soccer writing I have ever seen. It's absolutely magical. You hear about the spread of the Brazilian playing style, something that is recognized everywhere. You will learn about the multitude of Brazilians plying their trade worldwide and the exploitation of their talent in some cases. The dark side of the beautiful game you might say. You get the usual stories about Pelé and Garrincha, but you will also hear about the devastating effect of the 1950 World Cup. A single game changed the life of Zizinho and his Uruguayan counterpart Alcides Ghiggia. A single moment changed an entire country. Ghiggia lives with the good memories of the incomprehensible win, but not much else. The small country of Uruguay hasn't taken care of its greatest football hero and he now finds himself living the life as the poorest and bitterest of the 1950 veterans. This book brings out his story at such an important time. This is one of those defining books that help you truly understand the subject matter. What seems to be mysterious is easily explained by the great work of Bellos. If you plan on watching any of the World Cup, you absolutely have to read this book.

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