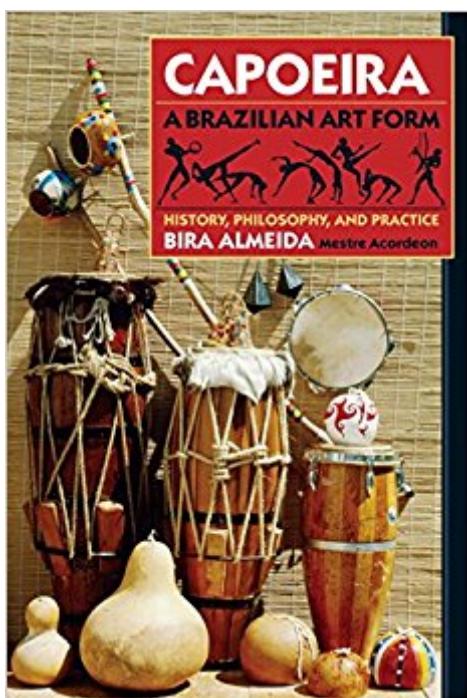


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# Capoeira: A Brazilian Art Form: History, Philosophy, And Practice



## Synopsis

Capoeira weaves fighting, music, dance, prayer, and ritual into an urgent strategy by which people live, struggle, celebrate, and survive together. In this book Bira Almeida--or Mestre Acordeon as he is respectfully called in capoeira circles--documents his own tradition with both the panoramic eye of the historian and the passionate heart of the capoeirista. He transports the reader from the dawn of New World history in Brazil to the streets of twentieth-century Bahia (the spiritual home of capoeira) to the giant urban centers of North America (where capoeira is now spreading in new lineages from the old masters). This book is valuable for anyone interested in ethnocultural traditions, martial arts, and music, as well as for those who want to listen to the words of an actual mestre dedicated to preserving his Afro-Brazilian legacy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bira Almeida was born in Salvador, Brazil, in 1943. As Mestre Acordeon, he is one of ten mestres certified by Mestre Bimba, Patron of Capoeira. A playwright, songwriter, vocalist, and musician, as well as a teacher of capoeira, Bira Almeida created the Grupo Folclorico de Politecnica which toured Europe. Almeida is founder and first president of the World Capoeira Association.

This book is incredible, it's an inspiration for me

Purchased for a friend who recently started practicing capoeira and she loves it.

## Good book

This book is essential to, in my opinion, Capoeira study. This nook is not just on the history of Capoeira but it details and teaches the history **MAKING** of Capoeira. In a day and age where everything is so rushed and the true nature of arts forms are lost, in America specifically, Mestre Acordeon opposes this movement and brings to light the true nature and history of Capoeira from experiencing and living it first hand.

Whether you're just thinking about getting into capoeira, or you've been in it for a while and would like to learn more about the culture of capoeira, this book is great. This book helps the reader to understand the "insides" of the art.

Mestre Acordeon's book has long been praised for its clear writing, for his thoughtful coverage of the history, philosophy, and artistic traditions surrounding this art-form. Other reviewers (see below) have noted that the book was among the first in English to introduce readers to these aspects of Capoeira, while also offering a glimpse into this one mestre's personal and life-long journey. Having assigned his book to students (both graduate and undergraduate alike), I have had ample opportunity to hear students' glowing reviews: most of these students had never heard of Capoeira, nor even seen it played, before having read his work. In retrospect, they (and I, too) consider this book an excellent way to delve into the topic. While there's recently been a flurry of new scholarship on Capoeira (at least 3 books in English have come out in 2005) that matches Capoeira's growing influence around the globe, Acordeon's book remains one of the best places to start one's exploration. Axe ASCAB!

Provides a vivid, intriguing intro & history of this playful, dancelike martial art & the music it's traditionally performed to. I was fascinated by the Afro-Brazilian origins of the art (starting in 17th-cent. Brazil), and its ties to samba and other Afro-Brazilian art forms. The content ranges from social history to the author's vividly personal memories of/encounters with this century's major figures in capoeira. (The author himself is a renowned, world-class capoeira master.) Recommended for almost anyone (not only martial artists or Braziliophiles)--those interested in cultural arts, music, dance, the African diaspora, or just a lively, interesting read!

It's a good thing that among the few books in english about capoeira that we have this book! If

you're looking to learn capoeira techniques or tricks, this is not the book for you. If you want to learn the history, philosophy and cultural background of this amazing art look no further. Part history book, part dreamlike and ludic personal travel log on the journey down the path of capoeira, this book does the near impossible and captures the beauty, playfulness and wisdom of capoeira and puts in on the written page. If you're even slightly interested in the art of capoeira, buy this book...

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