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Indeed, the main goal of this book is to stitch together the historiography discussing all these protests as the result of social struggles; a mainstream media that tends to register the protests of the working class as radical manifestations and only give value to the struggle of the middle class, and an urban history so far quite disconnected from it all.

The Brazilian working class took to the streets in 1879, 1904, 1910, 1917, 1922, 1930, 1947, 1956, 1959, 1967, 1968, 1973, 1979, 1981, and 1987. On all occasions, the reason to protest was increase in transportation costs, labor conditions, forced relocation, or police brutality. The four causes were often present at the same time.