

# DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>



**FALCON, Francisco José Calazans** (Rio de Janeiro, 1933)

Francisco Falcon is among the Brazilian historians most dedicated to studying the history of Portugal during the Modern Period, with a focus on the Pombaline era. He graduated in History and Geography in 1955 from the *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro* [Federal University of Rio de Janeiro] (UFRJ), then known as the University of Brazil, and completed a Museology degree at the *Museu Histórico Nacional* [National Historical Museum] in 1956. That same year, he became an assistant in the Modern and Contemporary History department, taught by Professor Maria Yeda Linhares, at the *Faculdade Nacional de Filosofia* [National Faculty of Philosophy], then part of the University of Brazil. Later, he became a professor at the *Faculdade Fluminense de Filosofia* [Fluminense Faculty of Philosophy], now the *Universidade Federal Fluminense* [Fluminense Federal University] in Niterói, where he earned his doctorate and subsequently his “livre-docência” (similar to “habilitation” in the academic career path). Alongside other professors in History and Social Sciences, he helped establish the *Instituto de Ciências Humanas e Filosofia* [Institute of Human Sciences and Philosophy] (ICHF) after the *Faculdade Nacional de Filosofia* [National Faculty of Philosophy] at UFRJ was dissolved. In 1961, Falcon was among the professors from various Brazilian universities who founded the *Associação Nacional de História* [National History Association] (ANPUH), of which he remains a member. He has also served as an Associate Professor at the *Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro* [Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro] (PUC/RJ) and continues to be an active historian, part of the permanent faculty for the Postgraduate Programme at *Universidade Salgado de Oliveira* [Salgado de Oliveira University] (Universo).

His ties with Portugal were enduring, not only because he completed a post-doctorate in *Modern History at the Instituto de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa* [Institute of Labour and Business Sciences] (ISCTE) in 1984, with a scholarship from Brazil's Coordination of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES), but also through his involvement with the University of Coimbra. There, he coordinated the Brazilian side of the project *História da História em Portugal e no Brasil* [History of History in Portugal and Brazil], a Portuguese-Brazilian initiative funded by the *Instituto de Cultura e Língua Portuguesa* [Institute of Portuguese Language and Culture] (ICALP), later known as *Instituto Camões* [Camões Institute], and the *Junta Nacional de Investigação Científica e Tecnológica* [National Board for Scientific and Technological Research] (JNICT), which was succeeded by the *Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia* [Foundation for Science and Technology] (FCT), along with CAPES. Although the project was fully realised only by the Portuguese side (the *História da História em Portugal: Sécs. XIX-XX*, 1996, was published, authored by Luís Reis Torgal, J. M. Amado Mendes, and Fernando Catroga,



with a second edition in 1998), it fostered a steady exchange of Portuguese professors travelling to Brazil towards the end of the 20th century, while Brazilian historians visited Portugal, strengthening the academic ties between both countries.

As a historian, Falcon adopted the influence of the *École des Annales* and focused on economic and political history. However, he did not embrace the fashionable approach to history that characterised Brazilian (and also Portuguese) historiography at a certain period. Nor did he subscribe to a theoreticist methodology — "theoretical engineering," as it was once called — that shaped much of the discipline at the time. It can be said that Falcon was always a historian for whom sources were of fundamental importance, without ever neglecting the theories that could enrich them.

His relations with historians at the University of Coimbra, covering all historical periods, were constant. He attended numerous conferences, notably one held in 1999 to mark the third centenary of the birth of the Marquis of Pombal, organised by Ana Cristina Araújo in Pombal and Oeiras. His connections with the university led him to collaborate actively with the *Revista de História das Ideias* [Journal of the History of Ideas] and, following the establishment of the *Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares do Século XX* [Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of the 20th Century] (CEIS20) in 1998, with both the research unit and its journal, *Estudos do Século XX* [20th Century Studies].

Falcon's works on Pombalism are considered among the most significant, not only in books but also in many journals and conference proceedings. He examined Pombalism in its political and ideological expressions, as well as its mercantilist economic perspective, which aimed at modernisation — albeit historically out of sync. He also explored its pedagogical and philosophical aspects and its administration, particularly concerning the so-called "Overseas" territories. In this context, he sought to understand the Enlightenment and Portuguese Enlightened Absolutism, particularly with respect to the Brazilian case. Regarding Portugal, Falcon also focused on the history of historiography, especially through his work since the 1980s and the aforementioned research project. He engaged with the historiography of his time, both Brazilian and Portuguese, giving particular attention to the historiography of Pombalism.

**Active bibliography:** "A Extinção da Escravatura em Portugal no quadro da política econômica pombalina". Co-autoria: Fernando António Novais. *Anais do VI Simpósio da ANPUH*. S. Paulo: 1973, pp. 405-431; *História Contemporânea*. Co-autoria: Gerson Moura. Rio de Janeiro: Campus, 1974; *Formação do Mundo Contemporâneo*. Rio de Janeiro: Campus, 1975; *Mercantilismo e Transição*. São Paulo: Brasiliense, 1976; "O processo de independência no Rio de Janeiro". Co-autoria: Ilmar R. de Matos. *1822-Dimensões* (Org. de Carlos Guilherme Mota). S. Paulo: Perspectiva, 1978, pp. 156–203; "Historiografia portuguesa contemporânea", in *Estudos Históricos*, vol. 1, pp. 45-68, Rio de Janeiro: 1985; "Luzes e evolução na colônia. A importância da Universidade na Pós-Reforma Pombalina", in *Universidade(s). História, memória, perspectivas. Actas*, vol. 5, p. 105 ss., Coimbra: 1991; *A Época Pombalina (Política Económica e Monarquia Ilustrada)*. S. Paulo: Editora Ática, 1993; "As práticas do reformismo ilustrado pombalino no campo jurídico", in *Revista de História das Ideias*, vol. 18, p. 511 ss., Coimbra: 1996; "Governação pombalina e luzes nos trópicos. Entre polémicas e interpretações: alguns aspectos do período pombalino", in *Revista de História das Ideias*, vol. 29, pp. 219-226, Coimbra: 2008; *A Época pombalina no mundo luso-brasileiro*. Rio de Janeiro:

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FGV, 2015 (co-autoria de C. Rodrigues); *Estudos de Teoria da História e Historiografia*, 3 vols., S.Paulo, Hucitec. 2011-17

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Rio de Janeiro: Revan, 2012. Com a colaboração de: Ana Luiza Marques Bastos, Ciro Flamarion Cardoso, António Edmilson Martins Rodrigues, Elisa Goldman, Estevão Rezende Martins, Francisco Carlos Teixeira da Silva, Ilmar Rohloff de Matos, José Jobson Arruda, Lincoln de Abreu Penna, Marcelo Gantus Jasmim, Marieta Pinheiro de Carvalho, Marly Vianna, Ricardo Benzanquen de Araújo, Luís Reis Torgal e Orlando de Barros.

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