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UNIT 8



リオのカーニバル佳境に（写真提供 ロイター＝共同）

Brazil

A nation of non-readers

教育の格差が開き全体的な本離れが進んだとはいえ、日本人の識字率と読書量はいまだ世界の上位にあります。寺子屋や藩校の普及といった歴史的背景もあるでしょう。翻ってポルトガルの支配下で奴隷制の長かったブラジルでは、小学校の普及もこの数十年のことでした。厚い読者層の形成にはまだまだ時間がかかりそうです。

Listening

▶チリとブラジルの事情を述べた英語を聞いてア～エを並び変えなさい。

- ア) かつてのピノチェト軍事政権への恐れを知らぬチリの若者たちは要求を通すためデモを行った。
- イ) チリの左派連立政権の識字教育は若者の要求にリードされている観がある。
- ウ) ブラジルの識字教育は労働力の質の向上に主眼をおいている。
- エ) ブラジルはアメリカとバイオ燃料で協力関係にある。

1. 2. 3. 4.

Dictation

▶もう一度英語を聞いて、各空欄に2語書き入れなさい。

1 Brazil, unlike Venezuela, cooperates with the US in its bio-energy policies rather than confronting (1). Its trade with the EU is rapidly expanding and it attracts a satisfactory sum of foreign investment every year.

2 The government has recently started to consider nationwide reading-aid plans. It is more for procuring a quality work force than as a means of (2).

3 On the other hand, literacy education in Chile under its leftwing coalition government is rather led by the demands of young people. They have no memory of the former (3) of General Pinochet and are not afraid of stating their opinions.

4 They boycotted classes and marched on the streets to push the government to (4) to the poorest.

Read *The Economist*

▶日本語1～10と与えられた英語を一致させ、a)～c)を使って英文1～3を完成しなさい。

- 1 字の読める 2 始める 3 押し上げる 4 設立する 5 出版社
6 奴隷制度 7 普遍的な、広く普及した 8 財源を与える
9 配給する、配信する 10 議論をよぶ

slavery literate finance distribute found
publisher controversial launch boost universal

- 1 Many Brazilians are [] illiterate and have trouble in reading for everyday life.
- 2 They have both [] and economical reasons for their illiteracy.
- 3 But it means, put another way, Brazil's book market has a big potential for [].

- a) growth b) historical c) functionally

Brazil

A nation of non-readers

A strange and costly disregard of books

MANY Brazilians cannot read. In 2000, a quarter of those aged 15 and older were functionally illiterate*. Many simply do not want to. Only one literate adult in three reads books. The average Brazilian reads 1.8 non-academic books a year—less than half the figure in Europe and the United States. In a recent survey of reading habits, Brazilians came 27th out of 30 countries, spending 5.2 hours a week with a book. Argentines, their neighbours, ranked 18th.

In a rare accord, government, businesses and NGOs are all striving in different ways to change this. On March 13th the government launched a National Plan for Books and Reading. This seeks to boost reading, by founding libraries and financing publishers among other things. The Brazil Reader Institute, an NGO, brings books to people: it has installed lending libraries in two São Paulo metro stations, and is planning one in a Carnival samba school. It is starting to be common to see characters in television soap operas* shown reading. Cynics note that Globo, the biggest broadcaster, is also a big publisher of books, newspapers and magazines.

One discouragement to reading is that books are expensive. At São Paulo's book fair this week, "O Código Da Vinci" was on sale for 32 reals—more than a tenth of the official minimum monthly wage. Most other books have small print-runs, pushing up their prices.

disregard 「軽視」「無関心」

in a rare accord 「珍しく一致して」
strive 「奮闘する」

install 「設置する」

cynic 「皮肉屋」

broadcaster 「放送局」

“O Codigo Da Vinci”
「『ダヴィンチ・コード』」
reals(pl.) real 「リアル」ブラジルの通貨単位。1リアル = 100 センタボ (centavos)

But Brazilians' indifference to books has deeper roots. Centuries of slavery meant the country's leaders long neglected education. Primary schooling became universal only in the 1990s. Radio was ubiquitous by the 1930s; libraries and bookshops have still not caught up. "The electronic experience came before the written experience," says Marino Lobello, of the Brazilian Chamber of Books, an industry body.

All this means that Brazil's book market has the biggest growth potential in the western world, reckons Mr. Lobello. That notion has attracted foreign publishers, such as Spain's Prisa-Santillana, which bought a local house last year. American evangelical* publishers are eyeing the market for religious books, which outsell fiction in Brazil.

But reading is a difficult habit to form. Brazilians bought fewer books in 2004—289m, including textbooks distributed by the government—than they did in 1991. Last year the director of Brazil's national library quit after a controversial tenure. He complained that he had half the librarians he needed and termites had eaten much of the collection. Along with crime and high interest rates, that ought to be a cause for national shame. ■

print-runs 「発行部数」

industry body 「(商工会議所などの)産業団体」

local house 「(ブラジルの)地元の企業」

tenure 「任期」

interest rate 「金利」

Notes

functionally illiterate 「準非識字者」「機能的文盲者」ある程度の教育は受けているが、通常の生活で必要とされる読み書きの能力が欠如した者。

soap opera 「メロドラマ」昼の時間帯にテレビ放映し、しばしば石鹸・洗剤メーカーがスポンサーであったためこう呼ばれる。

evangelical 「福音主義の」「福音主義教会付属の」ここではアメリカのキリスト教右派を指す。識字教育と布教を一体化させた活動を積極的に行っている。背景には南米諸国の左派政権の反米的潮流をくい止める意図がある。

Matching ▶ a)～c) を使って 1～3 を完成しなさい。

1 A recent survey on reading habits shows []

- 2 The Brazil Reader Institute, an NGO, installed []
- 3 But centuries of slavery, high book prices and other conditions make it []
- a) lending libraries in metro stations and a samba school.
 b) difficult for Brazilians to make reading a habit.
 c) Brazilians spend 5.2 hours a week with a book.

Comprehension ▶ 日本語で答えなさい。

- 1 国民の読書を進めるため、ブラジル政府は何をしていますか。
- 2 ブラジル人があまり本を読まない理由を3つあげてください。
- 3 高い犯罪発生率、高金利と並んで、何が国の恥だとコメントされていますか。

Summary ▶ 与えられた英語を使って英文コラムの要約を完成しなさい

NGO aged illiterate slavery market
 accord publisher non-academic expensive form

In Brazil, a quarter of those (¹) 15 and over are functionally (²) and the average literate Brazilian reads only 1.8 (³) books a year. This lack of a literary culture exists partly because education had been neglected in centuries of (⁴), and because books are very (⁵) in the country. Under these circumstances, the government, the Brazil Reader Institute, an (⁶), and Globo, the biggest broadcaster and (⁷) are trying to encourage reading in a rare (⁸). But reading is a difficult habit to (⁹) and, it seems that, except for the (¹⁰) for evangelical books, the number of readers is not growing there.