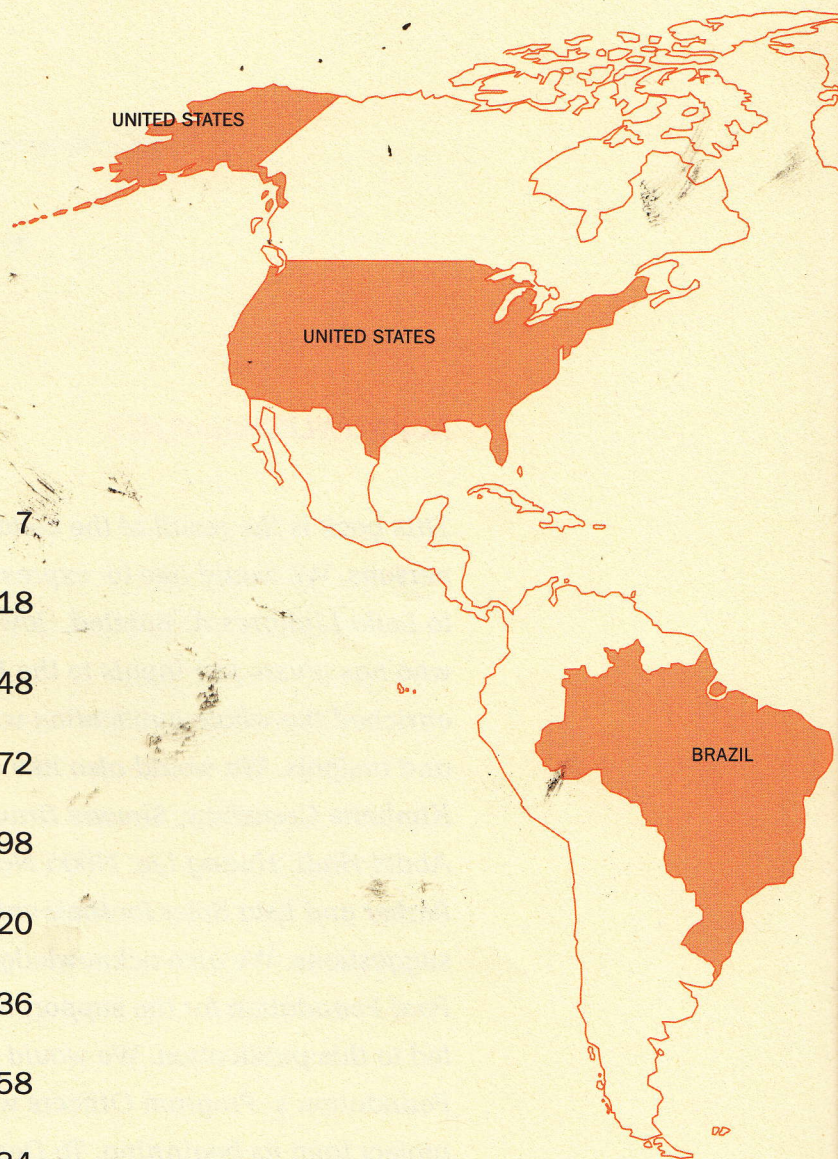


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the result of the collaboration of many persons. We would like to express our special gratitude to Leila Linhares A. Barsted, lawyer and CEPIA's Director who has given key inputs to the Brazilian chapter and enriched the whole publication with her comments and insights. We would also like to thank our advisors Kimberle Crenshaw, Simone Diniz, Manisha Gupte, Amal Abdel Hadi, Huang Lie, Nikki Naylor, Marina Pisklakova-Parker and Esta Soler for their valuable comments and suggestions. We also acknowledge and thank the Ford Foundation for the support to the research who led to this publication. We would also like to thank the Foundation's Program Officers who have followed this project from its beginning. To Denise Dora, our constant interlocutor, many thanks. To Lygia Costa and Sandra Infurna who collaborated on the research and to Sonia Goulart and Anita Slade who did the graphic design, also many thanks.

CONTENTS

Foreword	7
BRAZIL	18
CHINA	48
EGYPT	72
INDIA	98
PALESTINE	120
RUSSIA	136
SOUTH AFRICA	158
UNITED STATES	184





FOREWORD

The social perception as well as the institutional recognition that certain behaviors, costumes, attitudes, laws and values towards women are violent and express social relations permeated by violence is historical. And depends ultimately upon the gender power relations which predominate in a given society. In each society there is a dominant conception of Violence Against Women (VAW), which is expressed in laws and practices, but it does not mean that this conception is neither consensual nor static.