



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Domingos Passos, 1890-1928 (Disappeared)** **The Brazilian Bakunin - A biography by** **Renato Ramos and Alexandre Samis** **(1994)**

A union militant, carpenter by trade, and renowned orator and agitator, Domingo Passos stands out as a figure of early 20th century anarchism in Brazil. While a more detailed profile of Passos, yet alone a contemporary and comprehensive account of Brazilian anarchism, has yet to be published in English we do recommend the 1973 “Anarchists and Communists in Brazil 1900–1935” by John W. F. Dulles. Read a short overview here and find more references in the Wikipedia entry on anarchism in Brazil. This piece on Domingo Passos was published as part of the 2018 Black Anarchism reader.

I woke at 5.00 am. Passos, who had been up and about for hours, was sitting on his bed reading *Determinism and Responsibility* by Hamon. I grabbed a towel and went downstairs to wash my face. When I came back from the yard, after drying off, I saw two individuals. It was a moment or two before I realized who they were. With revolvers drawn they spoke to me and asked me harshly:

“Where’s Domingos Passos?”

Anticipating another of the attacks that our comrade had been through so often before, I was keen to cover for him and said that he was not around. I told them:

“There’s no Domingos Passos living here!”

#### **A Young Anarchist Militant**

This brief extract from a 16 March 1923 declaration by the workman Orlando Simoneck, carried in the newspaper *A Patria*, clearly reflects a few features of the situation sampled by the Black youngster, carpenter by trade, anarchist and active member of the Civil Construction Workers’ Union (UOCC): by 1923 ‘Comrade Passos’ had become a special target for the Rio police as well as one of the best loved and respected worker militants in the (then) Federal District. Another feature of this comrade, rightly identified by Simoneck, was his relentless self-educational drive, his thirst for learning and culture, which found him spending his mornings poring over books in the little collection belonging to Florentino de

