



Brazil

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This essay is drawn from four lectures that I presented on expeditions in Brazil. In each talk, I deal with political, economic, and cultural aspects of Brazilian history. I first wrote these talks in 2007.

I begin with Portugal's discovery and colonization of Brazil and examine why the Portuguese introduced slave-based sugar cane into Northeast Brazil. I then discuss the export cycles that underpinned Portuguese exploitation of Brazil – brazilwood (16th century), sugar (17th century), gold and diamonds (18th century), and coffee (19th century). I look at Brazil's transition to independence (1822) and political developments under Portuguese-Brazilian emperors (1822-1889). I examine how Brazil became the world's leading producer of coffee in the 19th century and why coffee export earnings dominated the Brazilian economy. I next review developments in Brazil's Old Republic (1889-1930). I then analyze how Getúlio Vargas set up a dictatorial New Republic (1930-1945), how Brazilian post-war democracy slid into military dictatorship, and how well Brazil's economy performed under democratic and military rule. I append a time line, a bibliography, and a description of the sites that I visited in Brazil.

Boom and Bust in Brazil

Portuguese Colonization of Brazil (16th century). In 1500, a Portuguese fleet, commanded by Pedro Álvares Cabral, was sent to follow Vasco da Gama's newly found trade route around the Cape of Good Hope to India. The thirteen ships blew off course in the mid-Atlantic and landed at Porto Seguro (on the coast of present-day Bahia).

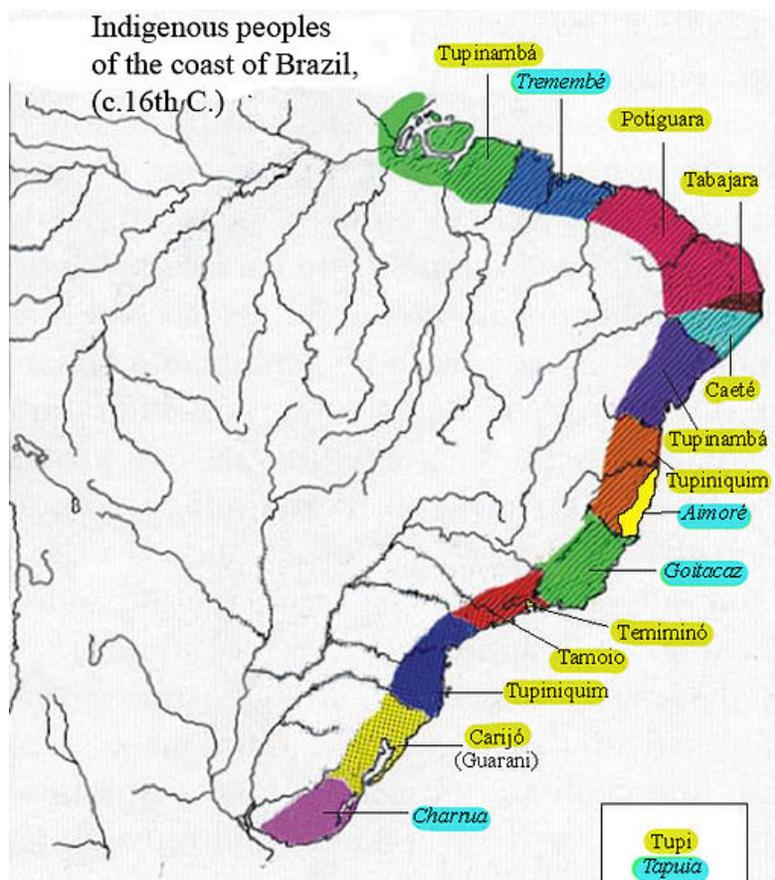


*Source: Wikimedia Commons available
at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pedro_Alvares_Cabral.jpg>*

*Pedro Álvares Cabral (1467-1520) –
Discovered Brazil for Portugal in 1500*

The accidentally discovered territory received the name Brazil from Portuguese merchants who followed to gather brazilwood, a source of red dye, and called the area Terra do Brasil.

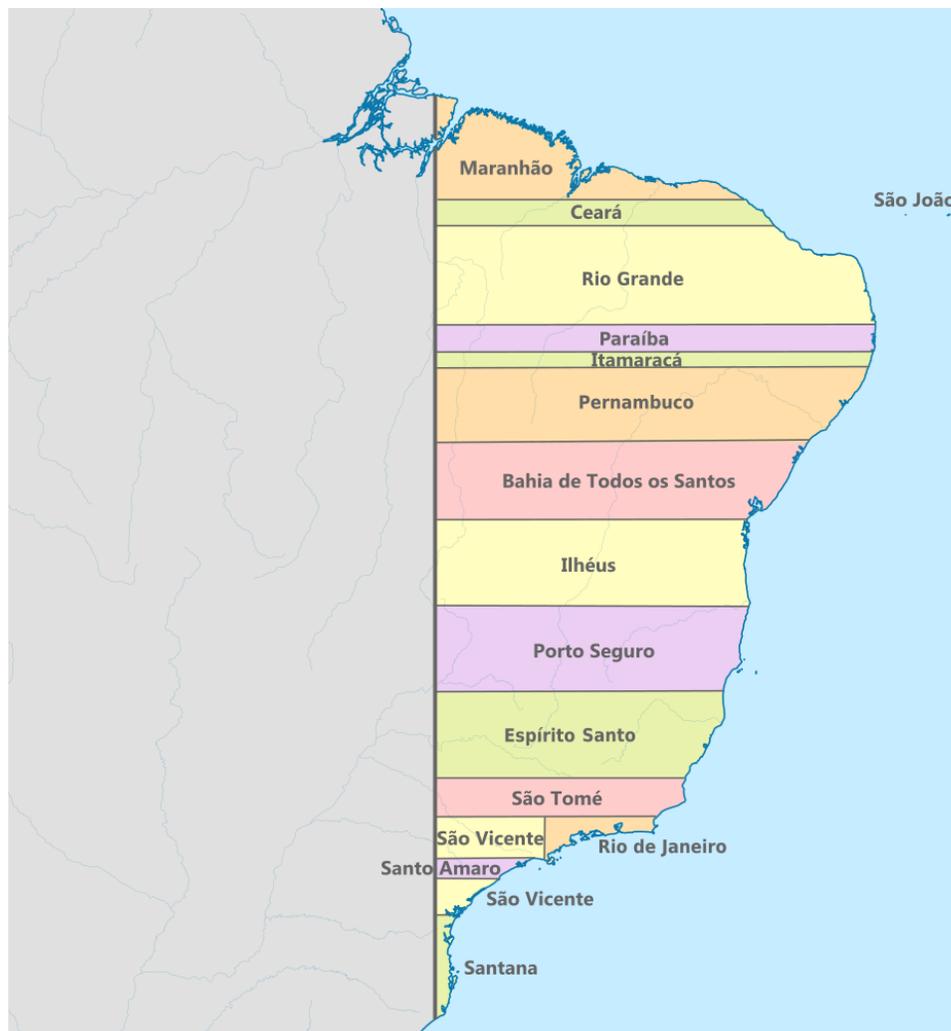
Brazil then was inhabited by 2-3 million Amerindian peoples. Tupí tribes predominated in the coastal areas and were the first Indian group to make contact with the Portuguese. After depleting coastal supplies of brazilwood, the Portuguese explorers ventured inland. The profits from this trade attracted French traders who challenged Portuguese territorial claims.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_indigenous_peoples_of_Brazil_\(16th_C.\)_jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_indigenous_peoples_of_Brazil_(16th_C.)_jpg)

Indigenous Amerindian Peoples of Coastal Brazil, 16th century

King João III dispatched Martim Afonso de Sousa to colonize Brazil with the purpose of establishing coastal fortifications to forestall foreign invaders (1530-1533). The king, through de Sousa, lavishly distributed the large landmass among a small number of colonists. The Portuguese settlers introduced wheat, grapevines, sugarcane, and cattle.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_in_1534.svg>

Original Portuguese Land Grants in Brazil – Pictured in 1534

In 1555, the French established France Antartique around Guanabara Bay, a rich source of brazilwood. In 1565, governor-general Mem de Sá established Rio de Janeiro as a base from which to attack the French and succeeded in removing them in 1567. Rio de Janeiro quickly grew due to the ability of its harbor to serve as an export point, particularly for the growing sugar industry, which used enslaved Amerindians for labor. The number of Portuguese settlers in Brazil expanded from 2,000 in the 1540s to about 25,000 in 1600 and to perhaps 150,000 by 1650.

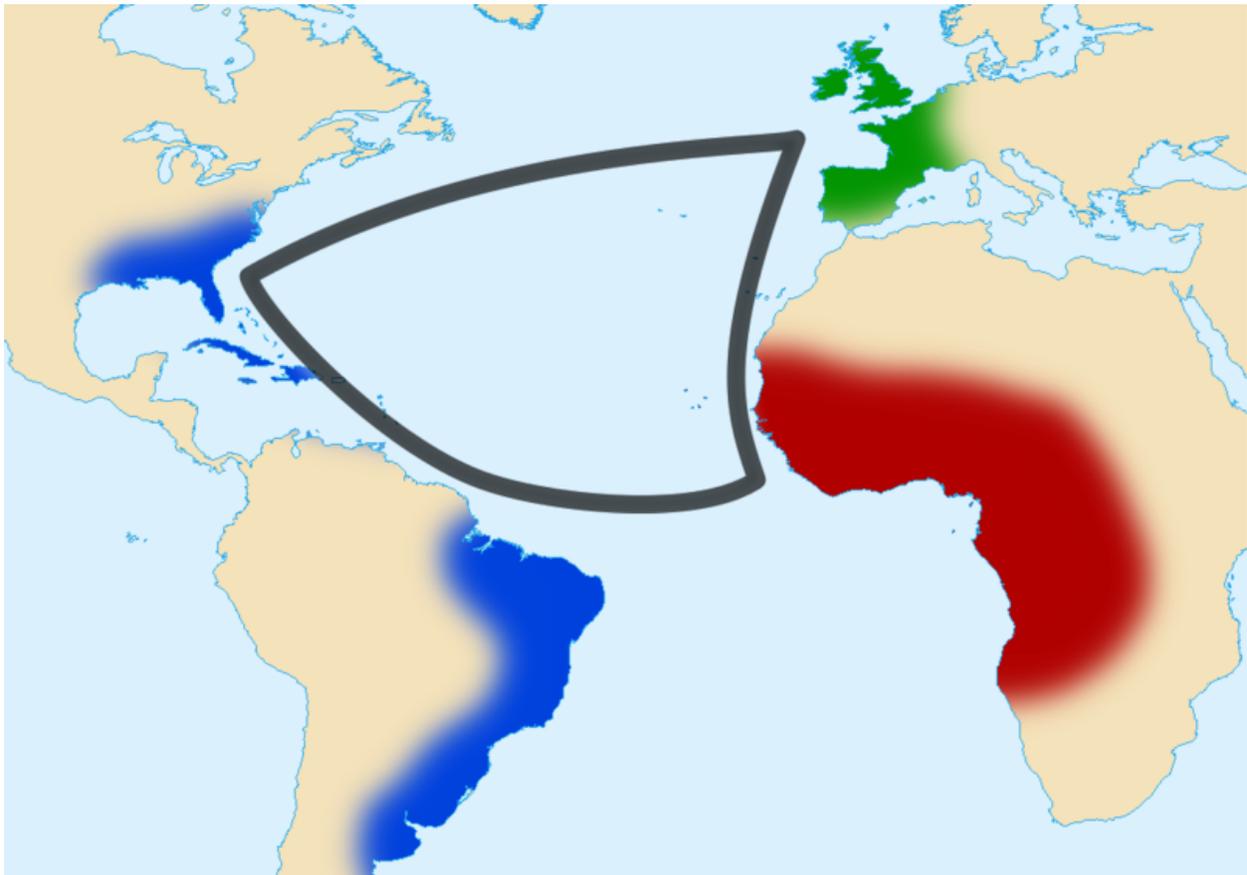


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazilwood_tree_in_Vit%C3%B3ria,_ES,_Brazil.jpg>

*Brazilwood Tree (Paubrasilia echinata) –
Source of the Red Dye, Brazilin, Brazil’s First Commodity Export*

Colonial Economy of Brazil. The governors-general of Brazil encouraged agriculture, especially sugar cultivation, to replace brazilwood exports. However, the labor-intensive sugar plantations suffered a shortage of workers. The Amerindians proved difficult to incorporate into the colonial system – as slaves, peasants, or wage-workers. In the mid-16th century, Brazil thus began to import slaves

from Africa. The Dutch occupied sugar-rich Pernambuco in northeastern Brazil in 1630, but the Portuguese reclaimed the region in 1654.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Triangular_trade.png>

Triangular Trade Route – Portuguese Cloth and Manufactures to Africa, African Slaves to Brazil, Brazilian Sugar and Rum to Portugal

The principal commodity exports from Brazil in the first two centuries of colonization were sugar, produced mainly in the northeast, and gold and diamonds, mined mostly in Minas Gerais in the center-

south. Brazil led the world in sugar production in the 17th century but then was out-competed by British, Dutch, and French sugar planters in the Caribbean.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frans_Post_-_Engenho_de_Pernambuco.jpg>

*Slave-based Sugarcane Production in Pernambuco, Portuguese Brazil –
Painting by Frans Post, 17th century*

In the 18th century, Brazil produced 2 million pounds of gold (80 percent of the world's total) and 2.4 million carats of diamonds. The European ships that came to collect those exports brought manufactured goods, wine, wheat flour, codfish, butter, cheese, and salt to Brazil. Brazil's economy went through phases of prosperity based on a single

export, punctuated by periods of economic decline, cycling through brazilwood, sugar, gold, diamonds, tobacco, cotton, cocoa, rubber, and coffee.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Minas_geiras,_moneta_d%27oro_del_brasile_portoghese,_xviii_sec.JPG>

*Portuguese Colonial Brazilian Gold Coin –
Minted in Minas Gerais, Southeastern Brazil, 18th century*

Portugal extracted wealth from the colony through imposing several taxes, including duties on trade and direct shares of production, and through its mercantilist policy of preventing Brazil from manufacturing any goods it could import from Portugal. The settler

population of Brazil grew rapidly – from 150,000 in the mid-17th century to 1.5 million in the 1770s and then to 3.6 million in 1819 (of whom half were slaves).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:-i---i_\(6288971321\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:-i---i_(6288971321).jpg)>

*Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil –
Portuguese Town Founded during the 18th-century Gold Rush*

Transition to Brazilian Independence. Disgruntlement with the colonial system gradually increased in Brazil. Brazil contained a larger population than Portugal and had the greatest economic potential in the Portuguese empire. Plantation owners came to resent the advantages

enjoyed by Portuguese traders in the coastal cities, and urban intellectuals complained about the inequity of the colonial mercantilist system.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PaçoImperial1.jpg>>

The Paço Imperial, 18th-century Colonial Palace in Rio de Janeiro – Used as a Dispatch House by João VI, Last Portuguese King of Brazil

Both groups felt that an unjust, exploitative system prevented Brazil from realizing its potential. However, the *inconfidências* (insurrections) of Minas Gerais (1789), Rio de Janeiro (1794), Bahia (1798), and Pernambuco (1801) and the rebellion in Pernambuco (1817) were short-lived and brutally suppressed.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Museu_da_Inconfid%C3%Aancia_\(2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Museu_da_Inconfid%C3%Aancia_(2).jpg)>

*Museu da Inconfidência, Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais –
Museum Established in 1938 to Commemorate Those Who Died
in the Insurrections Against Portuguese Rule*

In 1807, Napoleon's invasion of Portugal compelled the Portuguese court to flee to Brazil, and the Portuguese royals were the only European monarchs to rule an empire from a colony. The British safeguarded the Portuguese royal family's passage to Brazil in return for privileged access to the Brazilian market. England soon became the principal supplier of manufactured goods to Brazil. But that change forced Portugal to allow manufacturing to begin in Brazil, initially small textile factories and iron and steel mills.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Embarque_da_Fam%C3%ADlia_Real_para_o_Brasil_-_Nicolas-Louis-Albert_Delerive,_attrib._\(Museu_Nacional_dos_Coches\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Embarque_da_Fam%C3%ADlia_Real_para_o_Brasil_-_Nicolas-Louis-Albert_Delerive,_attrib._(Museu_Nacional_dos_Coches).png)>

*Embarkation of the Portuguese Royal Family to Brazil, 1807 –
Painting by Nicolas-Louis-Albert Delerive, 19th century*

In 1815, Brazil was elevated to the status of a kingdom, the equal of Portugal. Political turmoil in Portugal forced the king, João VI, to return to Europe in 1821, leaving behind his son, Pedro, as Prince Regent of Brazil. The wealthy and politically powerful leaders of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Minas Gerais pressured Pedro to refuse an order by the Portuguese Parliament to return to Portugal. The Brazilian nationalist, José Bonifácio, convinced Pedro to declare independence,

and he was crowned Emperor of Brazil in 1822. To Portugal's chagrin, Britain supported Brazilian independence.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_in_1822.svg>

*Political Divisions in Brazil, 1822 –
At the Time of Independence from Portugal*

Brazil's Fragile Yet Enduring Unity. Brazil declared its independence from Portugal in 1822, and Emperor Pedro I was its first leader. The coup d'état was bloodless. No one was imprisoned afterward.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pedro_Am%C3%A9rico_-_Independ%C3%Aancia_ou_Morte_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg>

Independence or Death, Declaration of Independence by Prince Pedro, September 7, 1822 – Painting by Pedro Américo, 1888

Portugal was weak militarily and divided politically. Britain strongly supported Brazilian independence to buttress its economic dominance in Brazil. Under British pressure, Portugal recognized the

Empire of Brazil in 1825. The nearly 4 million Brazilians, half free and half slave, were dominated politically by land-owning aristocrats.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_of_Dom_Pedro,_Duke_of_Bragan%C3%A7a_-_Google_Art_Project_edited.jpeg>

*Emperor Pedro I of Brazil, Declared Independence from Portugal, 1822
– Pictured in 1835*

The new country enjoyed a remarkable degree of national unity. The presence of a sympathetic monarch willing to accept constitutional government helped Brazil avoid the conflicts between monarchists and republicans that raged in other newly independent South American countries. The constitution enacted in 1824 provided a strong

centralized government with effective institutions. For several decades after independence, the military in Brazil was subservient to monarchical rule. The central government permitted wide regional autonomy, whereby local political bosses could maintain their own paramilitary forces so long as they transferred a portion of their tax revenues to the center.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Brazil_\(1870%E2%80%931889\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Brazil_(1870%E2%80%931889).svg)>

Official Flag of the Empire of Brazil (1822-1889)

Independent Brazil suffered only one significant loss of territory. The Cisplatine Province, which became part of Brazil in 1821, seceded in 1825 to join Argentina. Brazil lost the subsequent war with Argentina (1825-1828). Britain interceded to ensure the creation of Uruguay as a buffer state in 1828. The Brazilian monarchy brutally suppressed three rebellions led by workers – the Cabanos in Pernambuco and Alagoas (1832-1836), the Cabanagem in Pará (1835-1840), and the Balaiada in Maranhão (1838-1841). Brazil's fragile unity endured.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PlazaIndependencia.jpg>>

*Independence Square, Montevideo, Uruguay –
Uruguay Seceded from Brazil in 1825 and Became Independent in 1828*

Political Continuity in Imperial Brazil. Little significant political change occurred in imperial Brazil, because the landholding oligarchy dominated both parties. The Conservatives consisted of landowners from regions of economic decline (the Northeast, Bahia, rural Rio de Janeiro) plus bureaucrats, whereas the Liberals drew their support from landowners in areas of economic expansion (Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul) plus urban professionals. Both parties bribed friends and intimidated foes during elections. Emperor Pedro I abdicated and departed for Portugal in 1831, ending the First Empire (1822-1831) and leaving his young son Pedro as prince regent.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abdicacao_Pedro_I_do_Brasil.jpg>

*Emperor Pedro I Delivers His Abdication Letter, April 7, 1831 –
Painting by Aurélio de Figueiredo, 1911*

A period of economic and political instability followed during the Regency (1831-1840), when prices for Brazil's exports fell and government revenues declined. A spate of rebellions in the Northeast and North led the General Assembly to offer Pedro the throne in 1840, when he was only 16. During the Second Empire (1840-1889), Emperor Pedro II governed under an amended constitution that provided more central control.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pedro_Am%C3%A9rico_-_D._Pedro_II_na_abertura_da_Assembl%C3%A9ia_Geral.jpg>

*Emperor Pedro II, Ruled During the Second Empire (1840-1889) –
Portrait by Pedro Américo, 1872*

In 1844, the legislature doubled duties on imports, ending privileged British access to the Brazilian market and increasing government revenue. But the economy remained reliant on commodity exports. In the second half of the 19th century, export earnings expanded nearly fivefold. Political power fell increasingly into the

hands of urban interests, associated with commerce – in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais. The urban classes allied politically with the coffee planters, also centered in the southeastern states, who were more dynamic than the leaders of older industries such as the sugar plantations, centered in the northeast. The oligarchy thus widened to include merchants as well as landowners.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fazenda_Santa_Genebra_S%C3%A3o_Paulo_1880.jpg>*

*Large Farm, Santa Genebra, São Paulo Province, 1880 –
Merchants Joined Landowners in Brazil's Oligarchy*

Coffee in the Brazilian Economy. Most of Brazil's economic expansion during the 19th century was attributable to the rise of coffee cultivation, although cotton provided a brief export boom during the

American civil war. Coffee exports from Brazil started in 1731, but in 1779 exports amounted to only 1.25 tons. Coffee accounted for about 20 percent of the value of exports at independence in 1822. By 1850, coffee had supplanted sugar as Brazil's dominant export product, accounting for nearly half of the total, whereas sugar had fallen to about one-quarter. In 1889, coffee's export share rose to two-thirds and Brazil exported 5.6 million bags of coffee beans.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coffee_Berries.jpg>

Coffee (Coffea arabica) Berries, Ready for Harvesting – Brazil Became the World Leader in Coffee Production in the 19th century

Coffee cultivation was centered in the southeast, because of that area's rich soils and good climate. During the second half of the 19th

century, coffee drove economic development by attracting foreign capital and immigrants, generating domestic investment capital, spurring technological change, stimulating railroad and port construction, expanding cultivation and settlement, and leading the transition from slave to paid labor. However, the coffee industry relied on large plantations, continued single-export dependence, and extended Brazilian vulnerability to volatility in international markets.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Slaves_in_coffee_farm_by_marc_ferrez_1885.jpg>

*Slaves on a Coffee Plantation in Brazil, c. 1885 –
Photograph by Marc Ferrez*

The coffee boom led to widespread economic development – the banking industry matured and telegraph lines spread throughout the nation. Industrialization followed, and the number of factories in Brazil increased from about 50 in 1850 to 630 in 1889.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cafe_porto_Santos_1880.jpg>

Brazilian Coffee Being Loaded at the Port of Santos, São Paulo Province, c. 1880

Brazil's industries mainly were cotton mills but also included food processing, clothing, woodworking, and chemical and metallurgical firms. Coffee-led economic growth thus resulted in a shift of economic

and political power from the Northeast to São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazilian_coffee_growing_regions_\(arabica_and_robusta\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazilian_coffee_growing_regions_(arabica_and_robusta).png)>

*Coffee-producing Regions in Brazil –
High-quality Arabica (Dark Yellow), Low-quality Robusta (Red)*

Decline in Northeastern Brazil. The economy of Northeastern Brazil suffered an involution between the 17th and 19th centuries. In the first half of the 17th century, the Northeast was one of the richest areas in the world. Its high-productivity sugar plantations were based on cheap land, African-slave labor, and a favorable location near European markets. By the 19th century, agriculture in the Northeast had regressed to low-productivity systems growing cassava and maize for subsistence or raising small herds of cattle.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cassava.jpg>>

*Cassava Roots After Harvest –
Staple Food Crop for the Poor in Northeast Brazil*

Poverty in the Northeast persisted. In 1970, the region had 30 percent of Brazil's population but received only 12 percent of national income, whereas the 43 percent of Brazil's people who lived in the Southeast earned 65 percent of national income.

The gradual decline of the Northeast began in the 1660s. When the Dutch occupied Pernambuco (1630-1654), they learned the Portuguese system of slave-based, labor-intensive sugar production.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frans_Post_-_Engenho_de_Pernambuco.jpg>

Engenho (Sugar-cane Mill), Pernambuco, the Richest Sugar-producing Region in Colonial Brazil – Painting by Frans Post, 17th century

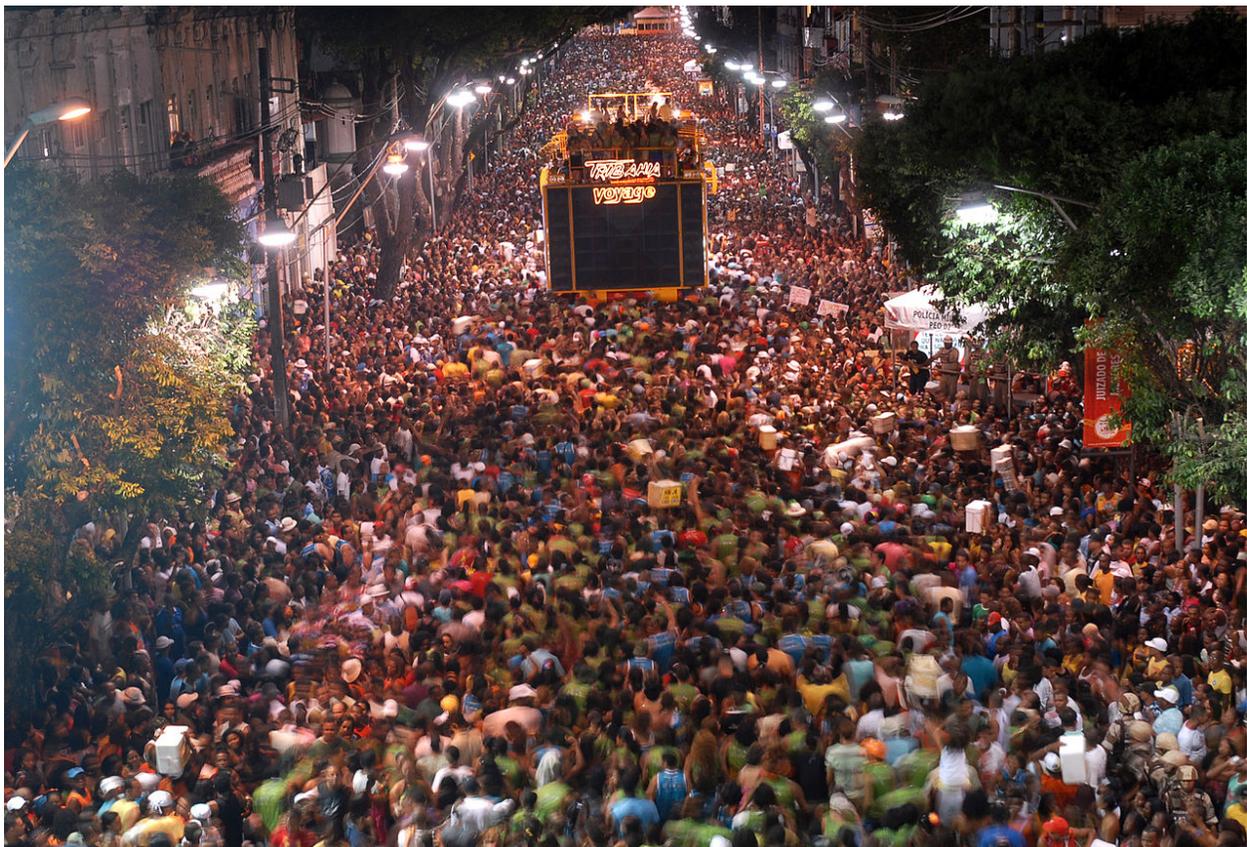
The Dutch soon transferred that system to the Caribbean by financing sugar plantations in the French Antilles and the British West Indies. The explosion of Caribbean sugar exports caused the world price of sugar to fall by half in the late 17th century and to remain low in the 18th century. The rise of beet sugar in continental Europe in the 19th century and the expansion of sugar cane output in Cuba ensured that world sugar prices stayed low.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sugar_Mill,_Matanzas_Province,_Cuba.jpg>

Sugarcane Mill, Matanzas Province, Cuba, 1898

The monoculture economy of Northeast Brazil never recovered. The Northeast lagged in the 18th century, when its sugar economy was loosely linked to the gold- and diamond-producing Southeast through cattle ranching in the interior of Brazil. Regional income disparities grew wider in the 19th century after the coffee-based boom in the Southeast raised incomes there substantially.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bloco_da_camisinha_circuito_Campo_Grande_Salvador.jpg>

*Salvador, Bahia (Northeast Brazil) Celebrates Carnival –
Despite Enduring Poverty*

War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870). The War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870), known in Brazil as the Paraguayan War, was imperial Brazil's only foreign war. In 1864, Brazil invaded Uruguay, then a client state of Brazil, with the goal of solving a Uruguayan political crisis by placing its preferred political party in power. Paraguay, a small dictatorship with a large army, retaliated by invading Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state. Subsequently, in early 1865, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay signed the Treaty of the Triple Alliance to fight Paraguay. The war began well for the Allies. The Brazilian navy destroyed the Paraguayan navy in the Battle of Riachuelo in mid-1865. As a result, the Allied forces blockaded the Paraná River, depriving land-locked Paraguay of its sole outlet to the outside world.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Batalha_Naval_do_Riachuelo_Pintura.jpg>

*The Battle of Riachuelo, June 1865 –
The Brazilian Navy Destroyed the Paraguayan Navy*

Allied progress thereafter was slow, however, because their forces were unaccustomed to fighting guerrilla warfare in jungle conditions.

The Paraguayan troops, mostly Guarani Indians, proved to be unexpectedly strong opponents. Brazil provided most of the Allied troops, as many as 200,000 men, and its leadership was spotty. When the war finally ended in 1870, Paraguay had been destroyed. The

country's population fell from 400,000 in 1864 to 230,000 after the war.

Brazil and Argentina each claimed part of Paraguayan territory.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Paraguayan_War_1864-1870.png>

The War of the Triple Alliance, 1865-1870 – Paraguay versus Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay

The Paraguayan War had a critical impact on future Brazilian politics because it led to the emergence of the military in Brazil as a powerful political institution. The transition to independence had not involved armed rebellion, so Brazil had not developed a strong military. But after 1870, the military emerged, drawing its leadership from the urban middle class, to challenge the long-standing landowning oligarchy and the rising merchant class.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Couple_of_Brazilian_officers_in_Paraguay.jpg>

Brazilian Officers in the Paraguayan War (1864-1870) – The Military Joined the Oligarchy in Brazil, Along with Landowners and Merchants

Transition from Empire to Republic. The economic success of the United States republic and the crumbling of the monarchy in France eroded monarchist sentiment among intellectuals and working classes. The military, due to the urban middle-class background of most of its officers, sympathized with the republicans, because they felt the government did not accord them the respect they thought they had earned during the Paraguayan War. Moreover, the abolition of slavery in 1888 caused anti-monarchist opposition and spurred European immigration. Resentment against abolition on the part of rural slave owners fostered republicanism among those who had been the monarchy's strongest supporters.



Source: Wikimedia Commons, available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Italians_Sao_Paulo.jpg>

Italian Immigrants in São Paulo, c. 1890

In reflection of those anti-monarchist sentiments, on November 15, 1889 Marshal Floriano Peixoto led a military coup that ended imperial rule in Brazil. Emperor Pedro II went into exile in France, and Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca became the military head of state.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons*, available at
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Proclama%C3%A7%C3%A3o_da_Rep%C3%BAblica_by_Benedito_Calixto_1893.jpg>

*Proclamation of the Republic of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 1889 –
Painting by Benedito Calixto, 1893*

The constitution adopted in 1891 provided a federal, republican, presidential government to lead a liberal, democratic, capitalist country.

In 1894, Prudente de Moraes of São Paulo was elected the first civilian president of Brazil. To support the agricultural interests of his state, he emphasized political and financial stability and decentralization to attract foreign credit, investment, and immigrants. Consequently, coffee

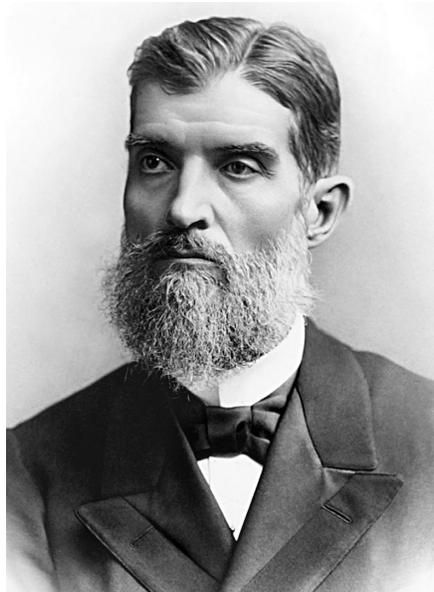
exports tripled in the 1890s, rising from 5.6 million bags in 1890-1891 to 16.3 million bags in 1901-1902. The Republic of Brazil was off to a running start.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_in_1889.svg>

The Republic of Brazil in 1889

The Old Republic (1889-1930). Brazil's Old Republic (1889-1930) was a decentralized oligarchy. The constitution of 1891 gave states the rights to tax and raise militias. The landed and industrial oligarchs in the states of São Paulo (coffee and industry) and Minas Gerais (cattle and mining) set up the “café com leite (coffee and milk)” coalition. The presidency rotated between elite leaders from those two powerful states.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Prudentedemoraais.jpg>>

*The Coffee and Milk Coalition –
Prudente de Moraes, President of Brazil (1894-1898), from São Paulo*

Northern Brazil benefited briefly from a rubber boom. Brazil's production came from wild native rubber trees in the Amazon Basin.

Rubber generated two-fifths of Brazil's export earnings in 1910. But soon thereafter, growing exports from efficient Asian rubber plantations ended the Brazilian boom.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amazon_Theatre_in_Manauas.jpg>

*Amazon Theatre, Opera House in Manaus, Amazonas State –
Built with Rubber Profits, 1884-1896*

During the four decades of the Old Republic, coffee accounted for 60 percent of Brazil's export earnings and Brazil produced three-fourths of the world's coffee. Production centered in São Paulo and Minas Gerais. The state and federal governments enacted a coffee valorization scheme through which they bought and withheld beans from the

international market when prices fell and sold when prices recovered, hoping to guarantee coffee sellers a minimum price. Meanwhile, the coffee industry financed industrialization, particularly in São Paulo, which became Brazil's leading industrial state.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coffee_Plantation.jpg>

*Coffee Plantation, São João do Manhuaçu City, Minas Gerais State –
Profits from Coffee Financed Industrialization in Brazil*

During the 1920s, weak coffee prices translated into increasing debt burdens, generating increasing resentment in non-coffee producing regions. The Great Depression forced the government to alter its support of coffee production. By 1929, economic hardship had solidified opposition to the southeastern states' monopoly over political

power. After the assassination of a vice-presidential candidate in 1930, the army installed Getúlio Vargas as president.

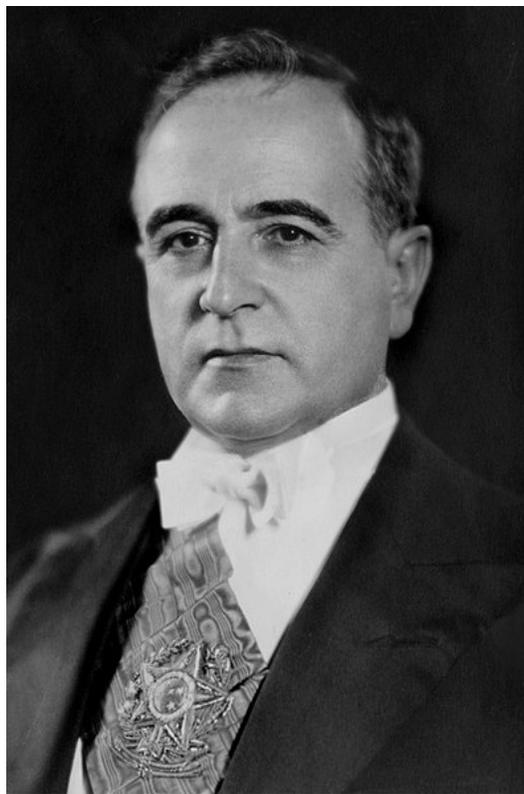


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Revolu%C3%A7%C3%A3o_de_1930.jpg>

The Brazilian Revolution of 1930 – Getúlio Vargas (Center) In Itararé, São Paulo State, En Route to Rio de Janeiro To Take Power

The New Republic (1930-1945). Getúlio Vargas introduced national capitalism, linking urban workers with the industrial elite, and ended the political domination of coffee planters. He cultivated ties with labor, by authorizing unions in 1931 and enacting social legislation, and

he courted the support of the urban middle class and the industrialists. Brazil's dependence on coffee forced economic adjustments during the global Depression. In 1935, export earnings fell to a third of their 1929 level after coffee prices collapsed. Vargas attempted to steer the economy toward diversification, promoting industry and cotton. In the second half of the 1930s, cotton accounted for 20 percent of exports, up from about 2 percent a decade earlier.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Getulio_Vargas_\(1930\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Getulio_Vargas_(1930).jpg)>*

*Getúlio Dorneles Vargas, President of Brazil (1930-1945, 1951-1954) –
Pictured in 1930, After the Military Installed Him as President*

Industry received support through high import duties, currency depreciation, and government loans. Brazil's industrial program benefited from an abundance of raw materials, including iron, manganese, chrome, copper, lead, zinc, industrial diamonds, and gemstones. Between 1930 and 1939, industrial output expanded by 10 percent per year. Industry was concentrated in the south and southeast. São Paulo produced over half of Brazil's manufactures by 1943. But most of the country remained agricultural, exporting coffee, cocoa, tobacco, and cotton and producing rice, wheat, corn, cassava, sugar, and beans for the local market.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cocoa_Pods.JPG>

*Pods on a Cocoa Tree (Theobroma cacao), the Source of Chocolate –
Cocoa Is Produced in Northeastern and Northern Brazil*

Vargas responded to growing political instability by canceling elections in 1937 and establishing an authoritarian dictatorship, the Estado Novo (New State). Brazil's participation in the Allied invasion of Italy led many to question how the country could fight for democracy in Europe while living under a dictatorship at home. Just before the presidential election in 1945, the military removed Vargas from power.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vargas_e_Roosevelt.jpg>

Brazilian President Getúlio Vargas (Left) with US President Franklin Roosevelt, Rio de Janeiro, 1936

Turbulent Democracy (1945-1964). Brazil was ruled by elected governments for two decades after the Second World War. That period was marked by very rapid economic growth (6 percent annually). But the fragile democracy was under constant threat of a military takeover. Eurico Dutra, a former general, won the election of 1945, ruled quietly for five years, and oversaw construction of the Volta Redonda steel mill.

Getúlio Vargas was elected to the presidency by popular vote in 1950 on a platform of industrialization and social legislation. Vargas expanded state industry and created the National Economic Development Bank and Petrobrás (the state oil monopoly). Four years later he committed suicide after the military threatened another coup.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
< https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:17_-_Get%C3%BAlio_Dorneles_Vargas_1951.jpg >

*President Getúlio Vargas Committed Suicide in 1954 –
Official Photograph Taken in 1951*

Brazil then elected Juscelino Kubitschek president in 1955, and the military ensured a smooth transfer of power. Under his administration, Brazil achieved 8 percent annual growth in GDP, industrial output grew

at an annual rate of 12 percent, and the new capital of Brasilia was begun. Kubitschek promoted import substitution of industry, especially steel and automobiles, through tariff protection and public investments. Brazil enjoyed growth three times higher than the rest of South America during the 1950s. Agriculture also expanded, and Brazil in 1960 remained a leading world producer of coffee, sugar, and cotton. However, budget deficits and wage increases fueled high inflation.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Juscelino.jpg>>*

*Juscelino Kubitschek, President of Brazil (1956-1961) –
Promoted Automobile Production and Brasilia*

In 1960, Jânio Quadros was elected on promises to end corruption and fight inflation. His unpopular policy measures caused him to resign suddenly in 1961. The vice-president, João (“Jango”) Goulart, next took office. But his plan to introduce land and tax reforms and voting rights for illiterates led the anti-Communist military to stage a bloodless coup in 1964.



*Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jangocolorido.jpg>>*

*João (“Jango”) Goulart, President of Brazil (1961-1964) –
Overthrown in a Military Coup in 1964*

Military Dictatorship (1964-1985). The military takeover in Brazil was marked by authoritarian repression, imprisonments, torture, and censorship. Military rule was based on a coalition of four-star generals, new technocrats, and old-line politicians, and no general served more than one term as president. The regime's principal focus was on controlled industrialization. There were no mass rallies and no attempt to infuse a conservative ideology.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CSN01.jpg>>

*CSN Steel Mill, Volta Redonda, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil –
Begun in 1941, Expanded in 1974 and 1977, Privatized in 1993*

The two decades of military rule divide into four periods. In the moderate first phase (1964-1967), General Castello Branco stressed

economic adjustment, control of inflation, and institutional reform and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average annual rate of only 4 percent. Generals Costa e Silva and Medici (1967-1974) were repressive, hard-line presidents who achieved rapid economic growth (GDP expanded at 11 percent yearly) by extending cheap credit, squeezing wages, and building infrastructure.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brasil_ame-o_ou_deixe-o.png>

*“Brazil: Love It Or Leave It” –
Official Government Slogan of Brazil’s Military Dictators, 1964-1985*

Generals Geisel and Figueiredo (1974-1980) promised *abertura* (an opening to democracy), used foreign loans to promote export growth, and achieved annual GDP growth rates of 7 percent despite the quintupling of world oil prices in 1973-1974. General Figueiredo had to be defensive in the last phase (1980-1985) because the doubling of oil

prices (1979-1980) and the rise in international interest rates precipitated a foreign debt crisis in Brazil (1982), the need for an IMF loan, stagnant economic performance, and rising pressures for political reform.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ronald_Reagan_e_Jo%C3%A3o_Figueiredo.jpg>

General João Figueiredo (Right) and US President Ronald Reagan – Riding Horses, Brasilia, Brazil, December 1982

Repressive military rule left a negative legacy. Brazil's economy was saddled with rampant inflation, high foreign debt, and worsened income inequality. Later military regimes in the Southern Cone countries (Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay) emulated Brazil's example.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brasil_economia.jpg

Economic Activity in Brazil, 1977

Democratic Reform (1985-2006). The return of democracy in Brazil led to a reversal of economic policies. The elected governments

emphasized stabilization to control inflation and modernization to make industry and agriculture more productive. The economic strategy changed from import substitution with state enterprises to export promotion with private firms and little government aid. That new policy line was supported in all four presidential terms after 1985. The post-1985 policy changes transformed the Brazilian economy. Industry became mostly private and export-competitive, and agriculture has been linked to agri-business and competes strongly in world markets.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carajas_Mine.jpg>

*Vale's Carajás Iron Mine, Pará, Brazil –
Vale S. A. Was Founded in 1942 and Privatized in 1997*

José Sarney (1985-1990), a conservative, attempted stabilization, but his Cruzado Plan (1986) failed because it permitted wage increases without fiscal restraint. Fernando Collor de Mello, a supporter of free markets, won the election in 1989. But dismal economic performance and personal corruption led to Collor's impeachment in 1992, giving the presidency to Itamar Franco (1992-1994).



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Foto_oficial_de_Fernando_Collor.jpg>

*Fernando Collor de Mello –
Elected President, 1990, Impeached for Corruption, 1992*

In 1994, Franco's Minister of Finance, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, introduced the Real Plan, which ended price indexing and

focused on exchange rate stabilization. The annual rate of inflation fell from over 1,000 percent in 1990 to 2 percent in 1998. The success of the Real Plan vaulted Cardoso into two terms as president (1994-2002). Cardoso, a neoliberal, sold state enterprises (for more than \$100 billion), ended public monopolies, and reduced government subsidies.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fernando_Henrique_Cardoso_\(1999\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fernando_Henrique_Cardoso_(1999).jpg)>

*Fernando Henrique Cardoso (right), President, 1994-2002 –
Stabilized Brazil's Economy*

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2003-2010, known as Lula), a trade unionist and founder of the Workers' Party, was elected president in 2002. Lula continued market-oriented policies, reformed pension laws,

and survived a corruption scandal in 2005 to be re-elected in 2006.

Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman president and Lula's colleague in the Workers' Party, was elected president in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. In August 2016, Rousseff was impeached, found guilty of corruptly breaking budgetary laws, and removed from office.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lula_-_foto_oficial_-_05_jan_2007_\(cropped_3\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lula_-_foto_oficial_-_05_jan_2007_(cropped_3).jpg)>

*Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President (2003-2011) –
Continued Market-oriented Policies and Reformed Pension Laws*

Michel Temer (2016-2018) of the Brazilian Democratic Movement served as interim president and then was elected to complete Rousseff's

term. Jair Bolsonaro, a hardline conservative, who left the Social Liberal Party to become an Independent in 2019, was elected president in 2018 and has been in office since January 2019. Bolsonaro is a highly confrontational and controversial leader, who has alienated Brazilian workers and re-opened the Amazon rainforest to further exploitation.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
< [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-03-24_Pronunciamento_do_Presidente_da_Rep%C3%ABlica,_Jair_Bolsonaro_em_Rede_Nacional_de_R%C3%A1dio_e_Televis%C3%A3o_-_49695919452_\(cropped_2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2020-03-24_Pronunciamento_do_Presidente_da_Rep%C3%ABlica,_Jair_Bolsonaro_em_Rede_Nacional_de_R%C3%A1dio_e_Televis%C3%A3o_-_49695919452_(cropped_2).jpg)>

*Jair Bolsonaro, President (2019-present) –
Controversial Conservative Leader, Re-opened the Amazon Rainforest*

Trends and Challenges in the Brazilian Economy. Between 1930 and 1980, the annual growth rate of income per person in the

Republic of Brazil, 3.3 percent, was one of the fastest in the world. But the last two decades of the twentieth century were very disappointing. Growth of per capita income stagnated (both GDP and population grew at about 2 percent per year) because Brazil was hit by external shocks (oil price rises and debt crises) and officials had to reform the unsustainable policies of the military governments.

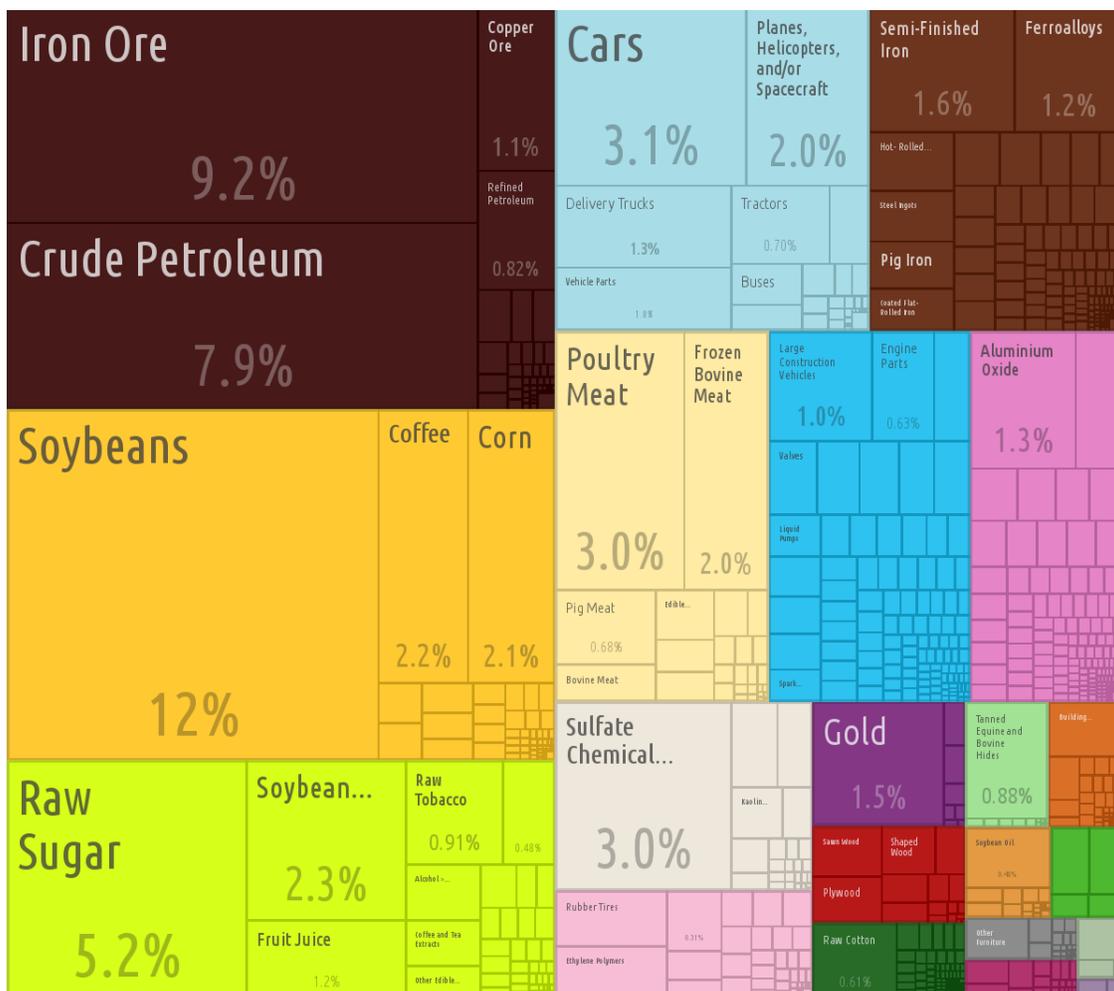


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CENU, S%C3%A3o Paulo, Brasil.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CENU,_S%C3%A3o_Paulo,_Brasil.jpg)>

*São Paulo, São Paulo State –
The Financial, Industrial, and Commercial Capital of Brazil*

Between 2000 and 2013, per capita income in Brazil (measured by the World Bank at Purchasing Power Parity in constant 2017 dollars) grew at an annual average rate of 2.4 percent. But then Brazil was hit by

an economic crisis. The government responded ineptly to a massive corruption scandal, Operation Car Wash, which involved numerous politicians and private-sector firms, and the economy tanked. Per capita income stagnated, falling from a peak of \$15,719 in 2014 to \$15,300 in 2019, a decline of 2.7 percent in that five-year period.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_Exports_Treemap_2017.svg

Proportional Representation of Brazil's Export Earnings in 2017 – Key Items Were Soybeans, Iron Ore, Petroleum, Sugar, and Automobiles

In 2019, Brazil's per capita income was just 87 percent of the world average and 23 percent of the US level. Brazil ranked only 84th of 189 countries in the UNDP's Human Development Index, a very disappointing 124th of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index, and a shameful 106th of 198 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index compiled by Transparency International.

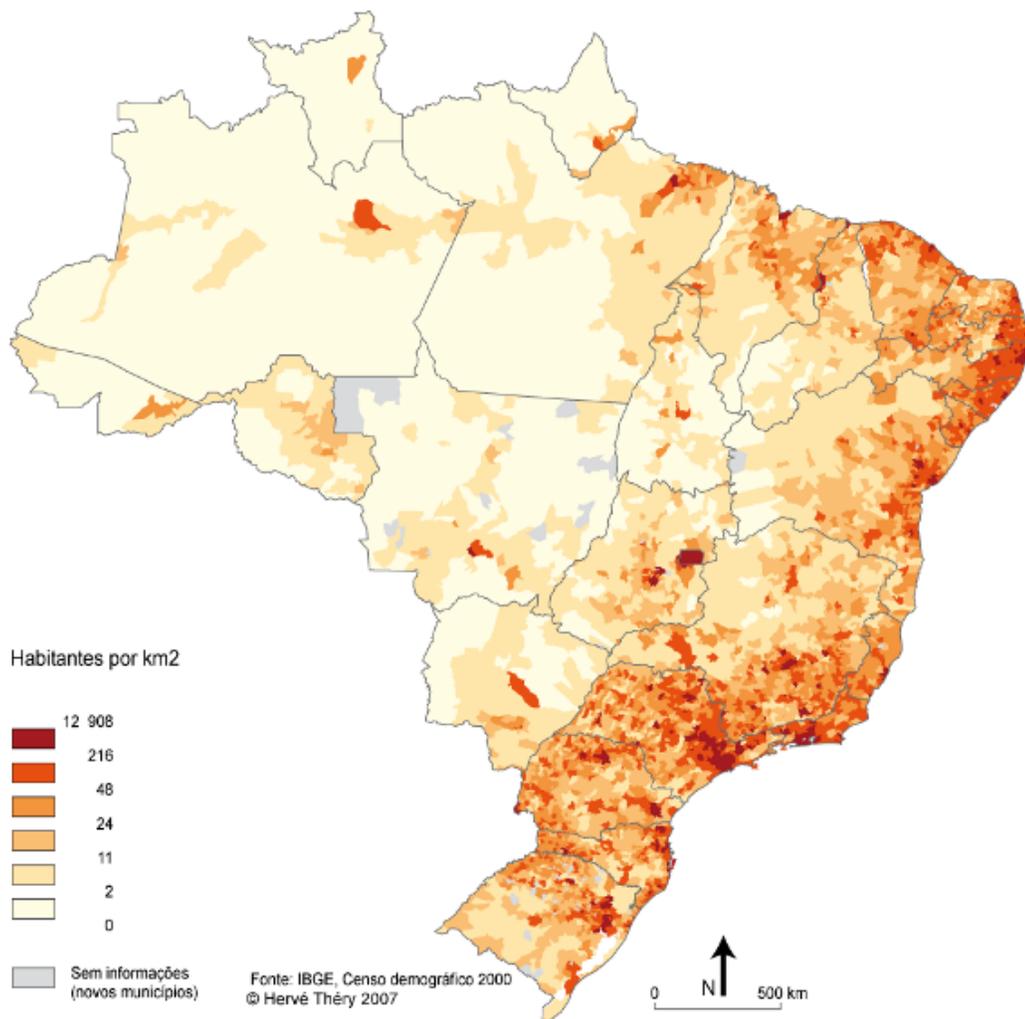


Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Universidade_Federal_do_Rio_de_Janeiro.jpg>

*Rectory Building of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro –
Founded in 1792, 67,000 Students*

Brazil had a rapid demographic transition during the past half century. By 2019, its population had grown to 211 million. Because

fertility rates plummeted, the annual rate of population growth fell from 3 percent in 1970 to 0.8 percent in 2019. Brazil belatedly decreased its very high illiteracy rate – from 50 percent in 1950 to 25 percent in 1980, 15 percent in 2000, and 7 percent in 2019 – largely through increases in primary education.



Source: Wikimedia Commons available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ARCHELLA_E_THERY_Img_05.png>

Density of Population in Brazil, 2000 Census

Two other issues continue to plague Brazilian policymakers. Brazil has one of the world's most unequal distributions of income. In 2019, the top 5 percent of Brazilians earned the same total income as the bottom 95 percent of wage-earners. Moreover, income per person in the Northeast was only one-third of the level in the Southeast and South. Politicians have refused to carry out meaningful land reform, the tax system is highly regressive, and higher educational opportunities are skewed in favor of the rich.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons available at*
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1_rocinha_favela_closeup.JPG>

Rocinha Favella, Rio de Janeiro – The Largest Urban Slum in Brazil

In addition, the destruction of the Amazon rainforest is continuing. Deforestation of this world resource is caused by indiscriminate development – logging, mining, farming, and pastoralism. Encroachment occurs on natural reserves because the few trained personnel cannot enforce environmental protection. The solution will require better policies and close cooperation between Brazilian and foreign environmentalists. However, under Bolsonaro’s leadership, between August 2019 and July 2020, 4,281 square miles of Amazon rainforest were deforested – a 10 per cent increase over the previous year and the highest rate since 2008.



Source: *Wikimedia Commons* available at
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brazil_map_en_2004.png>

Contemporary Brazil

Time Line for Brazil

15,000-11,000 BCE	people from North Asia migrated into North and South America – eventually settled in Brazil
1415-1640	Portugal's Age of Exploration
1488	Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias sailed around the southern tip of South Africa
1492	Christopher Columbus discovered New World – for Spain
1498	Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed around Cape of Good Hope en route to India
16 th century	Portugal created a trade monopoly in the Indian Ocean
c. 1500	2-3 million Amerindian people inhabited Brazil – Tupi people lived on the coastal regions – Tapuia people lived in the interior
1500	Pedro Álvares Cabral accidentally discovered Brazil for Portugal – en route to India
1510-1557	Portugal built fortified ports at Goa, Malacca, Hormuz, Colombo, and Macao
1530-1533	Portugal began colonizing Brazil – led by Martim Afonso de Susa – King João III distributed enormous land grants to colonists
1540s	settler population of Brazil was about 2,000

mid-16 th century	Portuguese colonists began to import slaves to Brazil from Africa
1555	France established France Antartique around Guanabara Bay – rich source of brazilwood
1565	Portuguese Governor-general Mem de Sá established Rio de Janeiro – drove the French out of Brazil in 1567
1580-1640	Portugal ruled by kings of Spain
1600	settler population of Brazil was 25,000
1630-1654	The Netherlands occupied sugar-rich Pernambuco Province in northeast Brazil – learned system of slave-based sugar planting
1640-1668	Portugal fought and defeated Spain – English assistance – re-gained independence
1650	settler population of Brazil was 150,000
1770s	settler population of Brazil was 1.5 million
1789-1799	French Revolution – evolved from upper-class demand for reforms into full rebellion
1789	<i>inconfidência</i> (insurrection) in Minas Gerais – suppressed by Portuguese government
1793-1815	Napoleonic Wars – Britain and allies defeated France

- 1794 *inconfidência* (insurrection) in Rio de Janeiro – suppressed by Portuguese government
- 1708 *inconfidência* (insurrection) in Bahia – suppressed by Portuguese government
- 1731 coffee exports from Brazil began – coffee accounted for half of Brazil’s total exports by 1850, two-thirds by 1889
- 1801 *inconfidência* (insurrection) in Pernambuco – suppressed by Portuguese government
- 1807-1820 Portugal was a virtual British protectorate
- 1807 Napoleon invaded Portugal – British Navy moved the Portuguese court to Brazil
- 1808-1814 Peninsular War – France, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, conquered and ruled Spain
- 1815 Congress of Vienna – monarchist balance-of-power in Europe – lasted for a century
- 1815 Brazil was elevated to the status of a kingdom – the equal of Portugal
- 1817 rebellion in Pernambuco – brutally suppressed by Portuguese government
- 1819 settler population of Brazil was 3.6 million (of whom half were slaves)

- 1821 Portuguese King, João VI, returned to Lisbon – due to political turmoil in Portugal – his son, Prince Pedro, ruled Brazil
- 1822 Brazil declared its independence from Portugal – Emperor Pedro I was first ruler – José Bonifácio was leading nationalist
- 1822-1831 First Empire in Brazil – Emperor Pedro I ruled
- 1824 new constitution enacted in Brazil – strong, centralized monarchy – effective institutions – subservient military – regional autonomy
- 1825 Portugal recognized the Empire of Brazil – acceded to British pressure
- 1825 Cisplatine Province (Uruguay) seceded from Brazil – joined Argentina – became independent in 1828
- 1831 Emperor Pedro I abdicated – departed for Portugal – ended First Empire – Pedro, his son, became Prince Regent
- 1831-1840 Regency in Brazil – Pedro, Prince Regent
- 1832-1836 Cabanos Rebellion – Pernambuco and Alagoas – led by workers – suppressed by Brazilian monarchy
- 1835-1840 Cabanagem Rebellion – Pará – led by workers – suppressed by Brazilian monarchy

1831-1841	Balaida Rebellion – Maranhão – led by workers – suppressed by Brazilian monarchy
1840-1889	Second Empire in Brazil – Emperor Pedro II ruled
1850-1889	boom period for early Brazilian industrialization – number of factories increased from 50 to 630
1850-1888	750,000 immigrants arrived in Brazil
1844	Brazilian legislature doubled tariffs – ended privileged British access to Brazil – increased government revenue
1865-1870	War of the Triple Alliance (Paraguayan War) – Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay soundly defeated Paraguay
1865	Treaty of the Triple Alliance – Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay agreed to fight jointly against Paraguay
1865	Battle of Riachuelo – Brazilian navy destroyed Paraguayan navy – blockaded Paraná River, Paraguay’s maritime outlet
1884-1896	Amazon Theatre, opera house in Manaus, Amazonas State – built with rubber profits
1888	slavery abolished in Brazil – caused anti-monarchist opposition – spurred European immigration
1888-1930	4 million immigrants arrived in Brazil – mainly from Italy, Portugal, Germany, and Spain

1889-1930	Ole Republic – decentralized oligarchy – presidency rotated between São Paulo and Minas Gerais (coffee and milk coalition)
1889	Marshal Floriano Peixoto led a military coup – Emperor Pedro II exiled to France – Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca, head of state
1890s	coffee exports tripled
1891	new constitution adopted in Brazil – federal, republican, presidential government to lead a liberal, democratic, capitalist country
1894	Prudente de Moraes of São Paulo elected first civilian president of Brazil – emphasized political and financial stability
1914-1918	World War I – Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Portugal, US defeated Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire
1930-1945	New Republic – Getúlio Vargas, leader – national capitalism – unionized workers – industrial elite – social legislation – industry
1937-1945	Estado Novo (New State) – Getúlio Vargas, dictator – forced out of power by the military in 1945
1939-1945	World War II – Allies (Britain, France, US, USSR) defeated Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan, Finland) – Brazil joined the Allies

1945-1950	Enrico Dutra, President of Brazil – oversaw construction of the Volta Redonda steel mill
1951-1954	Getúlio Vargas, President of Brazil – committed suicide in 1954
1956-1961	Juscelino Kubitschek, President of Brazil – promoted auto production and Brasilia
1961-1964	João (“Jango”) Goulart, President of Brazil – overthrown in a military coup in 1964
1964-1985	military dictatorship – authoritarian repression, imprisonments, censorship
1985-1990	José Sarney, President of Brazil – attempted stabilization, but Cruzado Plan (1986) failed
1990-1992	Fernando Collor de Mello, President of Brazil – personal corruption, impeachment
1992-1994	Itamar Franco, President of Brazil – introduced Real Plan to control inflation
1994-2002	Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of Brazil – privatized – reduced subsidies
2000-2013	Brazil’s per capita income (PPP) increased at an annual rate of 2.4 percent
2002-2011	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil – enacted a strong social safety net
2011-2016	Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil – impeached for breaking budgetary laws

2016-2018	Michel Temer, President of Brazil – unpopular, interim, few accomplishments
2014-2019	Brazil’s per capita income stagnant – declined by 2.7 percent in five years
2019-present	Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil – controversial, re-opened Amazon rainforest
2020	Brazil ranked 84 th of 189 countries in the UNDP’s Human Development Index

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Sites Visited in Brazil

A Cruise in South America and the Caribbean

Silversea Cruises

February 6-March 1, 2008

Ship-based, Aboard the *Silver Wind*

Santos (port for São Paulo), Brazil

Our third port of call was Santos, the port for São Paulo – the industrial and agricultural heartland of Brazil. São Paulo has been Brazil’s richest state, first because of coffee and later due to the automotive and metallurgical industries. We drove 45 miles from Santos to booming São Paulo city – one of the world’s largest, with 22 million residents. We observed Ipiranga, the site of Brazil’s declaration of independence from Portugal (1822), classic architecture from the coffee boom (starting in the 1890s), and widespread industrialization (starting in the 1950s). São Paulo state produces much of Brazil’s sugar cane for ethanol, and the vast new Tupi oil field is sited offshore Santos.

Paraty, Brazil

Paraty, Brazil was our next stop. Located about 250 miles southeast of Rio de Janeiro, Paraty once was an important port. During the gold and diamonds boom of the 18th century in the interior state of Minas Gerais, Paraty was a principal outlet for mineral exports, especially to the colonial capital of Lisbon. But the port fell into disuse when the boom ended and Brazil declared independence (in 1822). Happily, the small town (about 35,000 residents now) is nicely preserved, because it has been off the beaten path for two centuries. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring colonial architecture and early churches. We sailed through the picturesque bays and snorkeled in the warm water.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, with about 12 million people, is the second largest city in Brazil. We arrived two weeks too late for Carnival in Brazil, but Rio was still incredibly vibrant. We took a shore excursion around the city, featuring a tram ride up to the top of Corcovado (the site of Christ the Redeemer statue) and introductions to all of Rio's classic beaches (Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, and São Conrado). Two friends guided us on a walking tour of the old city of Rio, where we visited the São Bento Monastery, Calendaria Church, and the Tiradentes Palace and experienced the bustle of the city. Our late-afternoon sail-away out of beautiful Guanabara Bay was moving and memorable.

Salvador, Brazil

We then sailed north and east for a day and a half to Salvador, the former capital of Brazil (1549-1763) and now a city of 2.5 million and the capital of Bahia state. Bahia was one of the richest regions in the world in the 17th century, drawing its wealth from slave-based sugar cane plantations. Like the rest of northeastern Brazil, Salvador and Bahia have suffered since slavery was abolished in 1888. Bahia is the center of Afro-Brazilian culture. We visited Pelourinho Square (once Salvador's slave market), São Francisco Church (decorated with nearly a ton of gold plate), and the Carlos Costa Pinto Museum (filled with collections of home furnishings from 17th- and 18th-century Bahia).

Recife, Brazil

After another day of sailing north, we arrived in Recife – the second largest city in northeastern Brazil (1.5 million residents) and the capital of Pernambuco state. The history of Recife mirrors that of Salvador – once fabulously rich from sugar profits and now poor and struggling to ameliorate poverty. Recife is the Venice of Brazil – 39 bridges connect the city's three principal islands. We toured Recife's renowned Golden Chapel, but regrettably the famed Museum of Northeastern Culture was closed. We also visited nearby Olinda, a UNESCO World Heritage Site,

featuring colonial buildings from the 16th-18th centuries – notably the Sé Cathedral (1537) and Misericordia Church (1539).

Natal, Brazil

Our third port of call in northeastern Brazil was Natal, founded by Portuguese colonists on Christmas Day in 1599 and now a modest city of 750,000 and the capital of Rio Grande do Norte. Natal is the city in South America that is closest to Africa – Dakar, Senegal is only 1500 miles to the east across the South Atlantic Ocean. During the Second World War, American forces supplied their operations in Africa from bases in Natal. Natal aspires to alleviate its regional poverty by expanding its tourist industry. Charter flights bring Europeans to its white-sand beaches and high sand dunes. We spent our time in Natal walking on an endless, clean beach and enjoying the balmy weather.

Fortaleza, Brazil

Fortaleza was our last port of call in Brazil. The capital of Ceará state, Fortaleza has a population of 2.4 million and its textile factories process local long-staple cotton. Cashew nuts are indigenous to Ceará state, and Fortaleza services a large, agricultural hinterland. We escorted the ship's city tour. The highlight was a visit to the José de Alencar Theatre in the city's commercial district. Alencar was Brazil's best-known, 19th-century novelist. The theatre, completed in his honor in 1910, contains unusual Scottish cast-iron décor. We also saw the modern Sé Cathedral (with stain glass windows from Cologne, Germany) and the Encetur Tourist Center and museum, formerly a prison.

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South America Expedition By Private Jet
TCS Expeditions
February 19-March 11, 2002
Airplane-based

Manaus, Brazil

In the second half of the 19th century, Brazil began to tap wild rubber trees, which are indigenous to the Amazon basin, and to export latex for bicycle tires. Cheap labor poured in from former sugar plantations in northeastern Brazil, and the boom was on. For four decades, between 1880 and 1920, the Amazon region of Brazil enjoyed a rubber export boom that created incredible wealth for merchants and processors. That wealth was centered in the boomtown of Manaus, located in the heart of the Amazon basin, 900 miles up the Amazon River from the mouth of the river on the Atlantic coast. Manaus quickly evolved from a sleepy river port to one of the richest cities in the world. In 1896, the city opened its much-renowned opera house and for two decades thereafter imported some of the world's best opera companies to perform in it. The Amazon rubber boom ended abruptly about 1920 because the British developed natural rubber plantations in Malaya and Ceylon, drove down prices, and took over the world market.

Manaus was the first stop on our voyage around South America. We enjoyed a concert by a Brazilian brass ensemble in the Manaus opera house and saw other buildings that were constructed during the rubber boom. However, we opted to spend most of our time outside Manaus in a hotel built in the rain forest on the Rio Negro, a major tributary to the Amazon River. There we ventured out on small boats to observe wildlife in the jungle, including caimans (small relatives of alligators), piranhas, monkeys, and numerous tropical birds. We also saw how the chaboclos (the mixed-race descendants of Indian, African, and European ancestors) eked out a living through farming and fishing. This brief look at the heart of the Amazon basin brought home the difficult trade-offs involved in Brazil's ongoing debate on managing the valuable natural resources of this threatened region.

Iguazu Falls, Brazil and Argentina

In recent travels, Sandra and I have had the opportunity to see Victoria Falls in southern Africa and Tis Isat Falls in Ethiopia, both spectacular sites. Neither, however, can hold a candle to the scope, power, and beauty of the Iguazu Falls in southern South America. Those falls are located on the Iguazu River, which forms the contemporary border between northeastern Argentina and southern Brazil, just a few miles east of the confluence of the Iguazu and Parana Rivers. Only about 15 percent of the enormous, horseshoe-shaped falls are in Brazil on the northern side of the river and the remaining 85 percent are on the southern side of the river in Argentina. Argentina gained its portion of the Iguazu Falls after the War of the Triple Alliance (1865-1870) in which Paraguay foolishly attacked Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil and wound up losing the war, much of its territory, and nearly half of its total population. Part of the land ceded by Paraguay to Argentina contained the largest part of the Iguazu Falls.

Both Brazil and Argentina have done admirable jobs of creating touristic facilities to observe the falls. The Iguazu Falls look completely different when viewed from Brazil compared with observation from Argentina. From the north side in Brazil, one gains a full appreciation of the enormity of the falls because they are viewed at a distance. In contrast, from the south side in Argentina, one feels a part of the falls because the Argentines have constructed a long walkway that permits tourists to stand nearly on top of the falls and to enjoy their powerful mist. Sandra and I felt that the magnificence of the Iguazu Falls provided the most pleasant positive surprise of the entire trip. We highly recommend a visit for those who enjoy the powers of natural phenomena.

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A Cruise Around South America
Holland America Line
January 3-February 5, 2000
Ship-based, Aboard the *MS Noordam*

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The final stop on our journey was Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a fitting ending. We spent three days in Rio and enjoyed ourselves immensely. The most unusual thing we did was to spend an afternoon visiting Rocinha, the largest favela in Rio. We had expected that favela to be a slum of wooden shacks, but instead found it to contain concrete houses with good water supplies and electricity. More than 200,000 people live in this mountainside favela, and all enjoy gorgeous views of Rio's beaches. Brazil contains nearly half the land and more than half the population of South America. Over half of Brazil's population of 170 million now live in cities of 1 million or larger. Following economic success in the 1950s and 1960s and dismal political and economic failures in the 1970s and 1980s, Brazil emerged in the 1990s with adroit political leadership. The country's economy stabilized (inflation decreased from 2500 percent in 1993 to 2 percent in 1997), but with relatively slow growth.

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