

Brazil *in Brief*

| Fifth Edition
Revised

Brazil



Brazil *Brazil* *in* Brief

| **Fifth Edition**
Revised

Brazilian Embassy in Pretoria

UNISA Centre for Latin American Studies

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Brazil is the largest Latin American country, covering nearly half (47,3 per cent) of the South American continent and occupying an area of 8 511 965 km². It is the fifth largest country in the world after the Russian Federation, Canada, China and the United States.

Except for a small number of islands, Brazil consists of a single, unbroken land mass. On a map of the world, it can be seen that the eastern bulge of Brazil conforms to the concave curve of the west coast of Africa. According to the theory of continental drift, this is no accident. Africa and South America once abutted on each other, but drifted apart over millions of years.

The Equator passes through the north of the country near Macapá. The Tropic of Capricorn passes through the south near São Paulo. Brazil's greatest width, 4 319,4 km, is almost the same as its greatest distance from north to south, 4 394,7 km.

Brazil has ten neighbours: French Guiana and the countries of Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela and Colombia bound Brazil to the north, Uruguay and Argentina to the south, and Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru to the west. Ecuador and Chile are the only two countries of continental South America that do not share a border with Brazil. The Atlantic Ocean extends along the entire eastern side of the country, giving it a coastline of 7 367 km.

the Land

the Land



standard time

Owing to the distance separating its east-west extreme points (4 319,4 km) the country has four time zones. In most of the Brazilian territory, the time is three hours earlier than the standard Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). When it is 09:00 in Greenwich, it is 06:00 in Brasília, the capital of Brazil.

Between the months of October and February, during summer, the country adopts daylight saving time, setting the clock forward by one hour, in the South-eastern, West-central and Southern Regions, and the States of Bahia (North-eastern Region) and Tocantins (Northern Region).

standard time



geology and mineral resources

The national territory contains rocks that originated during the Archaean period, more than 2 600 million years ago, as well as those still being formed. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks are present, the last-mentioned still not consolidated. The tectonic compartmentation contains cratons such as the Amazon, São Luís, São Francisco, Luís Alves and Rio de La Plata, the central massif of Goiás, folds such as the Araguaia-Tocantins, Uruaçu, Paraguay, Brasília, Araçuaí, Ribeira, upper Rio Grande, Rio Preto, Espinhaço and Sergipana, and sedimentary basins such as those of the Amazon, Solimões, Paraná and Parnaíba rivers.

Brazil is known to possess extremely rich mineral deposits, although these have yet to be comprehensively surveyed. Brazil has the world's sixth largest reserve of commercially recoverable iron ore, some 20,3 billion tons, 8,6 per cent of the world total. The iron content is high, varying from 50 to 70 per cent for haematite and itabirite. Most of the deposits – nearly 95 per cent – are concentrated in the states of Minas Gerais and Pará. Minas Gerais alone accounts for 75 per cent. Brazil's identified deposits

*geology
and
mineral
resources*

the

relief

and

are sufficient to supply the world demand for iron (based on current levels and predictable growth) for the next 20 years. In addition to iron ore, Brazil has the world's fifth largest reserves of manganese, with proven deposits of 53,8 billion tons, the world's third largest reserves of bauxite (3,9 billion tons) and 5,2 per cent of the world's reserves of nickel (8,9 million tons). The state of Goiás holds 74 per cent of Brazil's deposits. Brazil possesses reserves of potassium, uranium, niobium (a rare metal used to make super alloys for jet engines and superconductors), phosphate, tungsten (an element used for hardening steel), cassiterite (the chief source of tin), lead, graphite, chrome, gold, zirconium (a strong ductile metallic element with many industrial uses), and the rare mineral, thorium, a radioactive metallic element.

Ninety per cent of the world's supply of gems, such as aquamarines, topazes, amethysts, tourmalines and emeralds are produced in Brazil.



The shaping of the earth's surface is dynamic, and results from the joint action of internal and external agents. Geological structure, tectonic movements, climate and living beings are the elements that construct and destroy relief, and are finally responsible for the diversity of features that form the external surface of the earth's crust.

The Brazilian landscape developed over an old geological base which, for a long time, was subject to the action of erosion without the occurrence of recent tectonic movements that would have created high mountain ranges. Therefore, predominant altitudes are no higher than 500 m (78,03 per cent of the territory), while a small area presents elevations over 1 200 m (0,54 per cent).

relief

The Brazilian landscape is dominated by two prominent features: the Amazon River with its surrounding lowland basin of 4 000 000 km² and the Central Highlands, a plateau that rises southward from the great river. Most of the Central Highlands consist of a tableland varying in altitude from 300 to 500 m above sea level, broken by a number of low mountain ranges and cut by deep valleys. The highlands ascend steeply in the east forming an escarpment, where

The Amazon river

The Amazon river,

the world's largest river in water volume, is 6 577km long.

The river is navigable by ocean liners up to 3 885km upstream, reaching Iquitos in Peru.



rivers

Brazil has a vast and dense hydrographic network. Owing to relief features, there is a predominance

rivers

several peaks attain an altitude of 2 500 m or more, and then drop precipitously to a narrow Atlantic coastal plain. A network of high mountain ranges runs from the south of the country to the north-east, forming a continental divide between the Atlantic Ocean and the interior. Brazil's highest point, Pico da Neblina, reaches 3 014 m and is found in the north, close to the Venezuelan border.

of highland rivers that, among other characteristics, present a great potential for hydroelectric power production.

Brazil has one of the most extensive river systems in the world with eight drainage basins. The Amazon and the Tocantins-Araguaia basins in the north account for 56 per cent of Brazil's total drainage area. The Amazon River, the world's largest river in water volume and second longest after the Nile, is 6 577 km long, of which 3 615 km are in Brazilian territory. The river is navigable by ocean liners up to 3 885 km upstream, reaching Iquitos in Peru.

The Paraná-Paraguai river system drains the area from the south-western portion of the state of Minas

Gerais southward until it reaches the Atlantic through the Rio da Prata near Buenos Aires, Argentina. Brazil's two southernmost states are drained by the Uruguay River also into the Prata.

The São Francisco River is the largest river that is entirely within Brazil, flowing for more than 1 609 km northwards before it turns eastward into the Atlantic. Like the Paraná and the Tocantins, its source is in the Central Highlands of the country. The upper river is navigable in some areas for shallow draft riverboats, and only the last 277 km of the lower river is navigable for ocean-going ships.

rivers



climate

The Brazilian geographic configuration, which is bordered by the ocean from north to south, with a continental scale and relief features, combined with atmospheric systems dynamics, results in wide-ranging climatic diversity with regional differences.

The higher annual temperature measurements (26 °C to 28 °C) occur in the interior of the north-eastern region and the mid- and lower Amazon River. The lowest values (less than 18 °C) occur in the hilly areas of the south-eastern region's depressions, valleys and lowlands, the Central West's Pantanal and lower areas and in the South

the Land

region's central depressions and the Uruguay River valley. The lowest temperatures, however, often show negative values, occurring on the highest peaks of the south-east and most of the Southern Region, where frost and snow may occur.

Although 90 per cent of the country is within the tropical zone, more than 60 per cent of the population lives in areas where altitude, sea winds, or cold polar fronts moderate the temperature. Plateau cities such as São Paulo, Brasília, and Belo Horizonte have very mild climates averaging 19 °C. Rio de Janeiro, Recife and Salvador on the coast have warm climates balanced by the constancy of the trade winds. In the southern cities of Porto Alegre and Curitiba, the subtropical climate is similar to parts of Southern Africa with frost occurring frequently. Winter temperatures can fall to below freezing.

Despite the popular image of the Amazon as a region of stifling heat, temperatures of more than 32 °C are rarely experienced. Instead, the annual average temperature in the Amazon region is in the range of 22 to 26 °C, with only very small seasonal variations between the warmest and the coldest months. The hottest part of Brazil is the north-east where, during the dry season, between May and November, temperatures of more than 38 °C are frequently recorded. The north-east has greater seasonal variation in temperatures than does the Amazon region. Along the Atlantic coast





from Recife to Rio de Janeiro, temperatures range from 23 to 27 °C. Inland, on higher ground, temperatures are lower, ranging from 18 to 21 °C. South of Rio, the seasons are more noticeable and the annual temperature range is greater. The average temperature for this part of the country is between 17 and 19 °C.

Brazil's rainy areas correspond to Pará's coastal lands and western Amazonas, where the annual rainfall values surpass 3 000 mm. There is less rain in the north-eastern region, where annual values are less than 500 mm. Maximum precipitation occurs during summer and autumn in most of the country, except for Roraima and north Amazonas where the rainy

season occurs during the winter because these two states are located in the Northern Hemisphere.

Brazil's most intense rainfall occurs around the mouth of the Amazon River near the city of Belém, as well as in the vast upper regions of Amazonia. Another important region of heavy rainfall is along the edge of the great escarpment in the state of São Paulo. Most of Brazil, however, has a fairly moderate rainfall of between 1 000 and 1 500 mm a year, with rainfalls occurring mostly in the summer, between December and April. The winters tend to be dry. The driest part of the country is the north-east, the so-called polygon of drought, encompassing ten per cent of the country's territory. In this region rainfall is unpredictable and the evaporation rate is very high, making it difficult to raise crops. Along the coastline, south of Recife, the mountains trigger rainfall from the trade winds. In some places behind the mountains, such as the region south of Salvador, the hinterland is dry because the rain is dumped on the mountains leaving very little for the area below.

the Land



seasons

Seasons in Brazil are much the same as in southern Africa: spring lasts from about 22 September until 21 December and summer can be expected to last from 22 December until 21 March. Autumn begins around 22 March and continues until about 21 June and winter can be expected to run from 22 June until 21 September. In most regions of Brazil, the seasons are not well defined, being divided mainly into two: the rainy season ('summer') and the dry season ('winter').

seasons

Tropical zone

Although 90 per cent of the country is within the tropical zone, more than 60 per cent of the population lives in areas where altitude, sea winds, or cold polar fronts moderate the temperature



vegetation

The variation in climate, together with soil and drainage conditions, is reflected by Brazil's vegetation. In the Amazon Basin and in those places along the Atlantic coast where the rainfall is very heavy, one finds a tropi-



flora

Owing to the vast area of tropical country, Brazil is endowed with an extraordinary botanical variety. The Amazon region, 5 217 423 km² in extent, comprising the States of Acre, Rondônia, Amazonas, Pará, Roraima, Amapá, Mato Grosso and the largest part of the States of Tocantins

Flora

the Land

vegetation

cal rain forest composed of luxuriant broadleaf evergreen trees. The rain forest is made up of a huge variety of different species, an estimated 3 000 in 2,6 km². In the lowlands and plateaux of the eastern coast trees are smaller than in the rain forest and lose their leaves in the dry season. In the semi-arid north-east, the *caatinga*, a dry bush, predominates. The greater portion of the central part of Brazil is covered by a woodland savannah known as the *cerrado*. This is a special type of land combining sparse scrub trees and drought-resistant grasses. In

the south, needle-leaved pinewoods (Paraná pine or *Araucária*) cover the highlands; grassland covers the sea-level plains. The Mato Grosso swamp-land (Pantanal Mato-grossense), a plain that covers 230 000 km² in the western portion of the centre of the country, is covered by tall grass, weeds and widely dispersed trees. Large patches of it are submerged during the rainy season. The Amazon Basin and the Pantanal, already altered by the actions of humankind, constitute two of the world's largest biological reserves.

and Maranhão, still preserves most of its natural vegetation. The country's richest forests are found in this region, where they originally covered approximately 64 per cent of the area. Grasslands covered about 18 per cent and the remainder consisted of other forms of vegetation, such as pioneer formations and areas of ecological tension.

The other regions show very fragmented vegetation, represented by small, scattered areas such as woods,

savannahs and areas of ecological tension.

A Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) survey in progress, through specialised bibliographies, has compiled up to now some 3 500 plant species with economic significance to the fields of medicine, nutrition, manufacturing and commerce of plant products. Also recorded are 1 304 applications with economic value, 8 446 common names and 2 219 chemical substances.

Flora

fauna



fauna

Brazilian fauna, although including a very high index of diverse species, contains relatively few individuals in each species. Many species inhabit restricted areas (endemic species). Thus fauna is very fragile and susceptible to human influence on their environment (anthropogenic activities). In Brazil there are about 4 430 species of vertebrate animals, among which are mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Seventy per cent of the 1 000 000 species of invertebrates are insects.

Of the 12 categories of mammals which inhabit the tropics of the Western Hemisphere, 11 are found in Brazil,

representing more than 600 species. They include several species of felines such as the jaguar and smaller cats such as the puma, jaguarundi and the ocelot. Other mammals include: sloths, anteaters, tapirs, armadillos, marine and river dolphins, capybaras (a large aquatic rodent, some weighting up to 66 kg), and 30 species of monkeys. With 1 600 species, including many varieties of parrots, Brazil has a larger variety of birds than any other country. There are at least 40 species of turtles, 120 of lizards, 230 of snakes, five species of alligators, 331 species of amphibians and 1 500 species of freshwater fish. A study conducted by IBGE in 2000



identified 14 species of mammals and 12 species of birds in danger of extinction in Brazil. The extinction of many of these species from the Brazilian fauna is caused mainly by the activities of humans in their environment, by the destruction of their habitats as well as by indiscriminate hunting. The 26 species/subspecies that are almost extinct include the lion tamarin (*mico leão-dourado*), the jaguar (*onça-pintada*), the little blue macaw or Spix's macaw (*ararinha-azul*), the marsh deer (*cervo-do-pantanal*) and the leatherback turtle (*tartaruga-marinha-de-couro*).

The Amazon forest and the Pantanal wetlands, although suffering the effects of human intervention, are two of the largest wildlife reservations on earth. The Amazon forest contains the single largest reserve of biological

* *The ferocity of the meat-eating piranha has been exaggerated. Although it is true that some species in rare circumstances have killed large animals and even people, their behaviour depends on the state of their habitat. In main river channels and in larger lakes they appear to leave swimmers unmolested. Only when they lack food do they become aggressive.*



organisms in the world. Scientists estimate that there are between 800 000 and 5 000 000 species living there, amounting to 15 to 30 per cent of all the species in the world. As naturalists catalogue new species of freshwater fish, their findings suggest that there may be as many as 3 000 kinds of fish in the Amazon rivers and lakes. Among the fish found in the area are: the pirarucu, said to be the largest freshwater fish in the world with specimens measuring over 2 m in length and weighing 125 kg; the tambaqui, a member of the fruit-eating characin family which has teeth that can crack seeds as hard as those of the rubber tree and the jauari palm, and the *piranha*.*



The Amazon forest

The Amazon forest

contains the single largest reserve of biological organisms in the world.

Scientists estimate that there are between 800 000 and 5 000 000 species living there, amounting to 15 to 30 per cent of all species in the world



environmental conservation units

environmental conservation units

There are 13 types of environmental conservation units in Brazil, namely the Permanent Preservation Area (70), the Environmental Protection Area (105), the Special Protection Area (5), the Relevant Ecological Interest Area (24), the Ecological Station (59), the Forest (50), the Natural Monument (3), the Park (113), the Ecological Park (16), the Forest Park (31), the Biological Reservation (76), the Ecological Reservation (65), the Forest Reservation (30) and the Extractive Reservation (9). These special units are administered by federal, state and local agencies, and some of them by private citizens.

environmental conservation units

Created in 1932, the Cataguases State Park (Minas Gerais) is the oldest park. Itatiaia (Rio de Janeiro) was created in 1937 and was the first to come under the federal government. Jaú National Park (Amazonas), with an area of 2 272 000 ha, roughly the size of Lesotho, is the largest park, and Ubajara (Ceará), with 563 ha, is the smallest.

The most recent type of environmental conservation unit is the extractive reservation, which was created in 1990 for the self-sustainable exploitation and conservation of renewable natural resources. The most extensive one, with 970 570 ha, is the Chico Mendes Extractive Reservation (Acre).



indian lands

indian lands

The National Foundation for Indians (FUNAI) regards as Indian Lands the physical space permanently occupied by tribal groups. Although Indians have the usufruct of everything the land contains, they do not have ownership of it.

In Brazil, there are 575 Indian territories with a total surface area of 946 452 km² (11,12% of the country's area), corresponding to an area larger than Namibia. From this total, 220 areas (436 400 km²) were already delimited, corresponding to 47,24 per cent. These areas are inhabited by 701 642 Indians of 215 different ethnic groups, who speak 170 different dialects. They are concentrated mainly in the Amazon, but are spread all over the country.

In Roraima State, in the extreme north of Brazil, there are Indian reservations covering an area of 94 190 km², occupied by 9 910 Yanomami Indians, which corresponds to one Indian for each 10 km².

The number of indigenous peoples increases almost thrice as fast as the regular population (3,2% compared with 1,3%).

indian lands

*the
Brazilian
Population*



| **the Brazilian Population** |

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In 2000 Brazil's population reached 169,7 million, the fifth largest in the world after that of China, India, the United States of America (US), and Indonesia. The Brazilian population is predominantly young with 48 per cent under the age of 29.

Population and Its Annual Rate of Growth

Year	Population (million)	Compound Annual Rate of Growth (%)
1776	1,9	–
1876	10,9	1,8%
1900	17,3	1,9%
1940	41,2	2,2%
1950	51,9	2,3%
1960	70,1	3,1%
1970	93,2	2,9%
1980	121,3	2,7%
1991	149,8	1,8%
2000	169,8	1,3%
2004	180,0	1,5%

Considering the high rate of population growth during the early and mid-20th century, Brazil has undergone a dramatic demographic transformation since the 1960s. This trend is largely due to a massive urbanisation process and economic modernisation. The fertility rate was projected to be 2,1 live births per woman by 2000. This would be dramatically lower than the 1960 rate of 6,3. The population growth rate of 3 per cent a year in the 1960s, fell to 1,3 per cent for the period 1991–2000.

During the past 50 years the structure of the Brazilian population according to age has changed. The proportion under 14 years of age has fallen from 43 per cent to 29,7 per cent, while the fraction over 60 years of age has risen from 4 per cent to 8,7 per cent. Life expectancy at birth has increased from 46 years in 1950 to 71,3 years in 2003. The literacy rate was 50 per cent in 1950. Today it is 85,3 per cent.



distribution of population

Although Brazil is the fifth most populous nation, its nationwide demographic density is low compared with other countries. The population is concentrated along the Atlantic coastal areas of the south-eastern and north-eastern states. Industrial activity is concentrated in the south-eastern region, with 50 per cent of the industrial production located in the state of São Paulo. Migration from the north-east to the south-east, as well as from rural to urban areas has been heavy since 1970. More recently, the population flow has turned towards the less inhabited central-western and northern regions.

Population Distribution and Inhabitants per km² (1)

Region	1970 Population Density/ million km ²		1980 Population Density/ million km ²		2000 Population Density/ million km ²	
	million	km ²	million	km ²	million	km ²
North	3,6	0,9	6,0	1,7	12,9	3,12
North-east	28,1	18,1	35,5	22,9	47,7	30,66
South-east	39,9	43,1	52,7	57,0	72,4	78,11
South	16,5	28,7	19,4	33,6	25,1	43,51
West-Central	5,1	3,2	7,7	4,1	11,6	7,22
All Brazil	93,2	10,9	121,3	14,3	169,8	19,86

(1) For administrative and statistical purposes Brazil is divided into five regions, based on broadly similar features, with perimeters following state boundaries.

five regions of brazil

five regions of brazil



Northern region

States of Amazonas, Pará, Acre, Rondônia, Roraima, Amapá and Tocantins.

This region lies mostly within the Amazon basin. It is largely covered by lush, tropical rain forests. The Amazon River traverses the middle of the region from west to east before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. There are also numerous other rivers in the area. By volume, this area has the largest concentration of freshwater in the world – one-fifth of all the earth’s fresh water reserves. There are two main Amazonian cities: Manaus, capital of the State of Amazonas, and Belém, capital of the State of Pará.

North-eastern region

States of Maranhão, Piauí, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Bahia, Alagoas and Sergipe.

Vast stretches of this region, which contains nearly 30 per cent of the Brazilian population, are chronically subject to drought. The area

has important economic possibilities, however, including sizeable oil fields. The Federal Government has been giving the north-east increased attention and large resources have been allocated to its improvement – with considerable success.

Pernambuco and Bahia were the first major centres of colonial Brazil and they still exert a very strong influence on Brazilian culture. Much of what is characteristically Brazilian in music, folklore, cuisine and social habits originated in this region. The two largest cities in the north-east are Recife and Salvador.

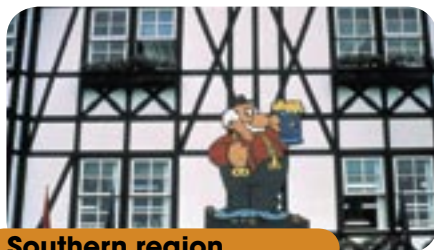


South-eastern region

States of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Espírito Santo

The highly industrialised areas around the cities of São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte form the economic hub of Brazil. The majority of the country's population is concentrated in this region. The area is rich in minerals and its agriculture is the most advanced in the country, producing coffee and grains for export, as well as a variety of both fresh and

processed foodstuffs, milk and meat for domestic consumption.



Southern region

States of Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul

This region is also highly developed. Here, too, there is a good balance between the rural and the manufacturing sectors. Toward the south, the plateau drops to the wide plains called *pampas* where the traditional grazing activities produced the *gaúcho*, the Brazilian equivalent of the cowboy. In the west, located on the border between Brazil and Argentina, is Iguazu Falls, one of the most beautiful natural wonders in the world. Less than 20 km away – on the Paraná River that separates Brazil and Paraguay – is Itaipu, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. The largest city in this region is Porto Alegre, capital of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state.

West-central region

States of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás and the Distrito Federal

This region, covered with extensive savannahs and tropical grasslands, is still sparsely populated. Once one of



five regions of brazil

the most isolated areas of the country, it has experienced a rapid expansion of its rural production and has established new industries. The nation's capital, Brasília, founded in 1960, is located in this region. The federal government has set aside vast areas as reservations in the west-central region for the native Indian tribes that originally lived in them. Also in this region is the wildlife paradise, the Mato Grosso swamplands (Pantanal Matogrossense).

Inhabitants in Metropolitan Areas

City	1970 (million)	2000 (million)
São Paulo	5,9	17,8
Rio de Janeiro	4,3	10,8
Belo Horizonte	1,2	4,8
Porto Alegre	0,9	3,6
Recife	1,1	3,3
Salvador	1,0	3,0
Fortaleza	0,8	2,9
Curitiba	0,6	2,7
Brasília	0,5	2,0
Belém	0,6	1,8

major cities



Brasília

Since the second half of the 18th century, Brazil's governing authorities considered transferring the seat of government from Rio de Janeiro to some inland area, safe from naval attacks. The first Republican Constitution (1891) went as far as defining where the future Federal District would be – a rectangle within the State of Goiás, in the heart of the country. But it was not until 1956, after eight years of surveying, that the actual design and construction of the new capital began under President Juscelino Kubitschek. The site chosen for Brasília comprises 5 814 km² of a then sparsely inhabited plateau carved out of the State of Goiás, 1 100 m above sea level and 1 200 km from Rio de Janeiro. Brazilian architect and

major cities

urban planner, Lúcio Costa, won the competition for the urban master plan. The major government buildings were designed by the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Landscape designer Roberto Burle Marx planned the layout and selection of plant varieties to add a vivid green backdrop to the otherwise dry, yellow landscape of the savannah vegetation. On 21 April 1960, Brasília was officially inaugurated and started functioning as the new capital of Brazil.

São Paulo



São Paulo was founded by the Jesuits in 1554, on a plateau 760 m above sea level, but only 72 km from the coast, as a mission centre for early settlers and the Indians who inhabited the area. For a long time it remained a small town. Around 1850 it began to grow and became richer thanks to the highly productive coffee plantations in the state. Later on, the income from coffee exports and the increasing population provided capital and human resources for the foundation of an industrial base. Today there are over 20 000 industrial plants of all types and sizes concentrated in the city and the surrounding municipalities employing 600 000 workers. São Paulo is also the major financial centre in Brazil with nearly 2 000 banking agencies.

Rio de Janeiro

With the inauguration of Brasília, **Rio de Janeiro** ceased to be Brazil's capital. Being the second largest city in Brazil, Rio is still a major cultural capital and, to some extent, the 'emotional' capital as well. Rio de Janeiro has a majestic beauty, with built-up areas nestled between a magnificent bay and dazzling beaches on one side, and an abruptly rising mountain range, covered by a luxuriant



major

tropical forest, on the other. This unique landscape makes Rio one of the most beautiful cities in the world, justifying its title of 'Marvellous City' (*Cidade Maravilhosa*). Rio's cultural life is intense and varied. Economically it is a service industry centre, a key financial centre, and the producer of foodstuffs, building materials, electrical equipment, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, beverages and textiles. But it is in the pursuit of leisure that Rio is outstanding. With its world-famous beaches (such as Copacabana and Ipanema) free to all, its splendid bay, one of the loveliest in the world, and its wonderful climate, a blend of summer and springtime, Rio de Janeiro is a city that lives in and for the sun.

Salvador



Salvador, capital of the state of Bahia, was the first major port and the capital of colonial Brazil for almost two centuries. The city lies between green tropical hills and broad beaches along the Bay of Todos os Santos. It was built on two levels with administration buildings and residences constructed on the hills, forts, docks and warehouses on the beaches. To this day the city is still divided into upper

and lower cities. From 1500 to 1815 Salvador was the nation's busiest port. A significant portion of the sugar from the north-east, and gold and diamonds from the mines in the south-east passed through Salvador. It was a golden age for the town. Magnificent homes and churches resplendent in gold decoration were built. Many of the city's baroque churches, private homes, squares and even the hand-chipped paving bricks have been preserved as part of Brazil's historic heritage.

In Salvador, more than anywhere else in the country, the African influence in the make-up of Brazilian culture is readily visible, from the spicy dishes still called by their African names (*caruru, vatapá, acarajé*), to the ceremonies of *candomblé* which honour both African deities and Catholic saints, to the *capoeira* schools where a unique African form of ritualistic fighting is taught.



major cities

Belo Horizonte

Belo Horizonte, the first modern Brazilian city to spring from an architect's drawing board, was especially designed for its role as the capital of the state of Minas Gerais. Its wide, landscaped avenues and carefully planned residential suburbs have, however, suffered the impact of the country's high rate of urbanisation. Belo Horizonte is the distributing and processing centre of a rich agricultural and mining region and the nucleus of a burgeoning industrial complex. Its chief manufactures are steel, steel products, automobiles and textiles. Gold, manganese, and gemstones of the surrounding region are processed in the city. Belo Horizonte is also a leading cultural centre, with three universities, a historical museum, numerous libraries and sports stadiums. The climate is fresh and cool.



Curitiba

Curitiba, standing some 914 m above sea level on the plateau of Serra do Mar, is the capital of the progressive state of Paraná. Since the late 1800s, Curitiba's bracing climate and picturesque location have attracted immigrants of Slav, German and Italian origin. Curitiba grew rapidly after 1950 and it is known for the sensible manner in which it became a major city without losing a comfortable life-style. Curitiba

is setting international standards, not only for its sound environmental policies, but also for the enthusiastic way its citizens embrace and uphold them. The city derives its economic prosperity from its role as commercial and processing centre for the expanding agricultural and ranch areas in the hinterlands as well as from its diverse industrial output.



Recife

Recife was built as a port city along tropical, white-sand beaches lined with palm trees. It is the capital of the north-eastern state of Pernambuco. Recife is a fast-growing urban area that has been called the 'Venice of Brazil' because it is intersected by numerous waterways and connected by

many bridges. The city got its name from the coral reefs that line the coast. Local fishermen go out into the high seas in *jangadas*, crude log rafts with beautiful sails unique to the area, which require expert navigational skills to manoeuvre. Recife exports great quantities of the hinterland's products, including sugar, cotton and coffee.

Porto Alegre

Porto Alegre, the largest city in the south of Brazil, is the capital of the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The city was founded in 1742 by immigrants from the Azores. Since the 19th century the city has received numerous German and Italian settlers. Lying as it does at the junction of five rivers, it has become an important port as well as one of the chief industrial and commercial centres in Brazil. Products of the rich agricultural and pastoral hinterland, such as leather, canned beef and rice, are exported from Porto Alegre to destinations as far away as Europe and Japan.

major cities



races

There are three basic racial sources for the Brazilian people. To the original inhabitants (Indians) were added successive waves of Europeans (mainly Portuguese) and Africans (mostly from the sub-Saharan west coast).

In the 16th century the area which is now Brazil was inhabited by several hundred indigenous tribes which, while racially similar, spoke different

races

languages and had different cultures. Groups speaking the Tupí and Guaraní languages lived along the coast and in the adjoining hinterland, and they intermarried with the Portuguese settlers. Many tribes speaking other languages (Gê, Arwak and Karib), however, lived in the interior and they took longer to establish contact with the outsiders. At the beginning of the 21st century Brazil's native Indians number about 700 000. They are divided into roughly 215 groups and

they speak some 170 different languages. The

Indians live in vast areas (946 452 km²), equal to 11,12 per cent of Brazil's total territory, which have been set aside for them by the Federal Government. In

these areas, which total nearly three-quarters of the size of South Africa or Angola, the Indians

are free to preserve their life style.

Starting in the middle of the 16th century, Africans belonging to the Bantu and to the Sudanic ethnic groups (a large proportion of the Sudanic group came from the Yoruba nation from what is today Nigeria and Benin) were brought to Brazil to work as slaves in the sugar cane plantations,

and later in the gold and diamond mines and the coffee plantations. The integration process that had begun between the Europeans and the Indians rapidly spread to include the black slaves.

This racial mixing went on as Brazil began, at the end of the 19th century, to receive increasing numbers of immigrants from all over the world. Portugal remained the single most important source of migrants to Brazil, with Italy second, followed by Lebanon. In the first half of the 20th century, as a consequence of war or economic pressures, sizeable contingents of immigrants came to Brazil from parts of western, central and eastern Europe. In 1908, 640 immigrants came to Brazil from Japan. Because of the welcoming social environment, a Japanese migration trend was established. By 1969, 247 312 Japanese had immigrated to Brazil. Today Brazilians of Japanese descent are the largest such group outside Japan.



language

language

Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. Except for the languages spoken by Indian tribes living in remote reservations, Portuguese is the only language of daily life. There are no regional dialects. Brazil is the only Portuguese-speaking country in South America.

religion

religion

religion



The country was officially Catholic for four centuries, from the Portuguese discovery in 1500 to the end of the Empire in 1889, and the law officially proscribed other religions as illegal. The Republican Constitution of 1891 established the separation of the State and the Church, and guaranteed freedom of religion. Nowadays, 73.8 per cent of the population declare themselves

to be Roman Catholic. However, Brazil is also a country of religious tolerance, of a variety of faiths and syncretism.

Recently Protestant groups in Brazil have been growing in number, rising from 9 per cent in 1991 to 15.4 per cent in 2000. There are sizeable

memberships in independent Pentecostal churches as well as followers of mainstream Protestant denominations from Europe and the US such as Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran and Baptist.

There are over a million-and-a-half Spiritualists or Kardecists who follow the doctrines of the 19th century French psychic researcher, Allan Kardec (central to Spiritualism is the belief in reincarnation). Brazil's diversity includes converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), small minorities of Jews, Muslims and Buddhists and numerous adherents of Candomblé.

Candomblé is a religion that was brought to Brazil by the Yoruba slaves from Nigeria and Benin. Today many Brazilians from every social and economic group participate in both Catholicism and Candomblé. To the slave-owners and Catholic officials, African slaves were heathens to be converted. To that end, the masters prohibited their rituals. In order to continue their traditional practices while still appeasing their owners, slaves coupled their animistic deities with corresponding personalities in Catholicism. Oxalá, a male god of procreation and harvest, for instance, was identified with Jesus. Iemanjá, goddess of the sea, was associated with Our Lady of Conception. Throughout the year, the two religions had many corresponding festivals. While the slaves kept their traditional observances (some native Indian beliefs were also added to Candomblé), their owners celebrated too, apparently convinced that they and their slaves were practising one faith. The Catholic Church was content to let matters lie, hoping that, over the years, African tradition would eventually die off and Christian beliefs would be strengthened. This has not been the case. Candomblé is practised all over Brazil. Umbanda, a religion derived from Candomblé coupled with the Christian and spiritual beliefs found in Kardecism, is also practised widely.

History

History

History



1562 map by Spanish Diego Gutiérrez

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discovery and settlement



Portuguese discoveries (1487-1497)

In the 15th and 16th centuries Portugal, an Iberian Kingdom with barely a million inhabitants, was hemmed in by the Atlantic and a hostile Castile. After years of struggle against the Moorish occupation, the Portuguese turned their attention and energy to the sea and what lay beyond. While the Spaniards set out in search of a route to the Orient by voyaging to the West, the Portuguese opted for the so-called Southern Cycle down the African coast. Reaching the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, they were led by the navigator Vasco da Gama across the Indian Ocean to discover the sea route to the Far East in 1497. They knew of the existence of lands across the Atlantic and they had made several expeditions to the West before Columbus discovered the Antilles in 1492, but they had kept the knowledge to themselves in order to forestall the ambitions of Spain, England and France. For a small nation, secrecy was the only available method of safeguarding the rewards of bold and successful exploration against exploitation by more powerful maritime rivals.

The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) settled the question of possession of the new lands between Spain and Portugal. It was agreed that territories lying east of a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands should

belong to Portugal, the lands to the west to Spain. This imaginary line, from pole to pole, cut through the eastern-most part of the South American continent and constituted Brazil's first frontier, although the formal discovery by Pedro Álvares Cabral did not take place until six years later in 1500.

First settlements (1530-1549)

Cabral's voyage was soon followed by other Portuguese expeditions. The most exploitable wealth they found was a wood that produced red and purple dyes, *pau-brasil* (from which the country derived its name). Organised occupation only began in 1530, when Portugal sent out the first colonists with domestic animals, plants and seeds to establish permanent settlements. The existing small enclaves in the north-east were consolidated. São Vicente on the coast of the modern State of São Paulo was founded in 1532, and the city of Salvador, later chosen as the seat of the Governors General, followed in 1549. The land was sparsely inhabited by indigenous tribes, some peaceful and others – especially in the interior – fierce and warlike. As more of the land was settled, a system of administration became necessary. As a first step, the Portuguese Crown created a number of hereditary fiefs, or captaincies. Fourteen of these captaincies, some larger than Portugal itself, were established in the mid-16th century, and the beneficiaries, called *donatários*, were responsible for their defence and development. The captaincy system lasted long enough to influence the basic territorial and political pattern of modern Brazil.

The moist and fertile seaboard of what is now the State of Pernambuco was very suitable for growing sugar and was also conveniently located as a port of call for sailing ships travelling from Portugal to West Africa and the Orient. The sugar plant and the technique of its cultivation had reached Brazil from Madeira. A trade in slaves to work on the sugar plantations was soon developed. During this period large numbers of slaves, mostly from West Africa, were sent to Brazil. The sugar was exported to markets in Europe where rising demand was beginning to outrun supplies from traditional sources.



*Portuguese colonial tiles with historical motifs
in Salvador*

The union of Spain and Portugal (1580-1640)

These developments were interrupted by events in Europe. When King Sebastian of Portugal died in 1578 without leaving a successor, Philip II of Spain succeeded in his claim to the vacant throne in Lisbon. From 1580 to 1640, the two peninsular kingdoms were linked together under the Spanish crown. Thus, by the union of the two countries, the whole of South America became, for that time span, a Spanish possession. Paradoxically, Portugal's 60 years of union with Spain were to confer unexpected advantages on her transatlantic colony. In the absence of boundaries, both the Portuguese and the Brazilians started penetrating deeper into the vast hinterland.

The main starting point for this exploration was the captaincy of São Vicente, and it was from their base in São

Paulo that the pioneers pushed the frontier forward from the seaboard into the interior. Expeditions (known as *Bandeiras*) in search of Indian slaves cut their way through forest, climbed the difficult escarpments, and marched across the inland plateau. The expeditionaries (*Bandeirantes*) are known to have brought back with them Indians captured from Jesuit missions scattered in the interior of the country. Thus, without realising it, the *Bandeirantes*, by crossing the borders drawn by the Treaty of Tordesillas, expanded the boundaries of the future independent Brazil.

In 1640, when the Portuguese under John IV recovered their independence, they refused to abandon the lands they had occupied and colonised west of the original Tordesillas line. Claiming what has since become recognised in international law as the right of *uti possidetis* – the right derived not only from title but also from useful possession – the Portuguese succeeded in establishing themselves as the lawful owners.

The gold cycle (1690-1800)

The second half of the 17th century saw Portugal freed from Spanish rule, the north-east of Brazil liberated from a 24 year occupation by Dutch forces, and the weakening of Brazil's sugar economy.

The next cycle of Brazilian history began with the discovery of gold. While the gold rush that followed drained thousands of people away from the coastal plantations, it also attracted fresh immigration from Portugal. Other consequences were the growth of cattle farming in the interior to provide meat and leather



Gold interior of church in Salvador

for the mining centres and the emergence of new cities in what is now the State of Minas Gerais. Altogether nearly 1 000 tons of gold and 3 million carats of diamonds were taken from the region between 1700 and 1800. The growth of gold mining in Brazil was an important development that influenced the course of events, not only in the colony but also in Europe. Although the gold was controlled by Portugal and shipped to Lisbon, it did not remain there. Under the Methuen Treaty of 1703, England supplied textile products to Portugal. These were paid for with gold from the Brazilian mines. The Brazilian gold that ended up in London helped to finance the Industrial Revolution.



Coffee berries

Coffee

However, the boom in gold and diamond mining, like that of sugar, was destined

to be followed by the rise of an even more important source of wealth – coffee. Just as mining caused a migration of people from Pernambuco and Bahia southwards to Minas Gerais, so the spread of coffee growing advanced the settlement of empty land still further to the south. Coffee first reached Brazil via French Guiana in the 18th century. The early plantations were in regions in the hinterland of Rio de Janeiro well provided with slave labour; but the abolition of slavery and European immigration into the State of São Paulo in the late 19th century caused coffee growing to move southwards to the region where soil conditions, climate, and altitude combined to create an ideal environment. Soon this combination made Brazil the biggest coffee producer in the world.

Another important event in the second half of the 18th century was the transfer of the seat of colonial government. After more than 200 years in Salvador, the capital was moved to Rio de Janeiro, where it dominated the main access route to Minas Gerais and was closer to the growing population centres in the southern regions of the colony.

the colonial period

independence



'Proclamation of Independence'

independence

H i s t o r y



Dom João VI

The feeling of nationhood

The role of Portugal during the period it ruled Brazil was essentially that of intermediary between the colony as producer and the European economic centres as consumers. Monopolising all trade with Brazil, Portugal retained a substantial part of the profits, and this led to growing discontent among the settlers and to the aspiration to trade independently from Portugal. The fight to expel French and Dutch invaders from the north-east at the beginning of the 17th century contributed to a growing feeling of nationalism in the Brazilian colonists.

Stirrings of unrest stemming from the urge to secure political freedom began in earnest in the second half of the 18th century. Although the concept of independence was generally shared, some movements against the Portuguese authorities were clearly regional in scope. The Minas Conspiracy (*Inconfi-*

independence



Imperial Crown

Transfer of the Portuguese court to Brazil (1808-1821)

dência Mineira), the most significant of these isolated movements, took place in the centre of what was then the gold-mining region. Its enthusiastic leader was a young cavalry officer, Joaquim José da Silva Xavier, nicknamed Tiradentes. Tiradentes had found support mainly among intellectuals seized with the same libertarian ideals that had inspired the French Encyclopaedists and the leaders of the American Revolution. The conspiracy was discovered and its leaders received very harsh sentences. Tiradentes was hanged in a public square in Rio de Janeiro. Other movements, some of which had wide support, occurred in Pernambuco and Bahia, where the decline of the sugar economy aggravated the problems created by the country's subordination to Portugal. None of them, however, was important enough to seriously undermine the Portuguese domination at the time.

In 1808, as Napoleon's armies began the invasion of Portugal, the decision was made to transfer the monarch and his court to Brazil, where he would remain until 1821. The establishment of the royal administration in the colony for a period of 14 years would accelerate the march towards independence, but from now on with a unique undertone. The Portuguese Crown, consciously or not, took some measures that eased the transition toward independence. The elevation of Brazil, in 1815, from the status of a colony to that of a United Kingdom with Portugal may be seen as an example. Another lies in the fact that, although Napoleon's dominance ended in 1815, King João VI preferred to remain in Rio de Janeiro. Six years later, in 1821, King João VI had to yield to unrelenting pressures from the politicians back home. He returned to Lisbon, but left the Crown Prince in Rio with the title of Viceroy Regent. Furthermore, in the presence of members of colonial society, the King supposedly advised him, 'Pedro, my son, when the time comes, place the crown on your head before an adventurer puts it on his'.



'Coronation of Dom Pedro I'

independence

Proclamation of independence (1822)

The irritating opposition of Lisbon's politicians to this state of affairs and the cajoling from close Brazilian advisers attracted the young prince to the cause of independence. Barely a year after the King's return to Portugal, on 7 September 1822, the Crown Prince proclaimed the independence of Brazil as an Empire and had himself solemnly crowned Emperor Pedro I on 1 December 1822. The mastermind behind Brazilian independence was José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva, a distinguished Brazilian geologist and writer who had become the most important and trusted of the Prince's advisers. While the Spanish vice-royalties in America had to fight fiercely for their independence (to end up as 18 different republics), Portugal and Brazil settled the matter by negotiation, with Great Britain acting as a broker. After a relatively short war of independence (1822–1824) Brazil became an Empire under Dom Pedro I, who, nevertheless, continued to be the heir to the Portuguese throne.

the empire



Dom Pedro I



Dom Pedro II

Pedro I (1822-1831)

The first ruler of independent Brazil was a striking personality. He made an important contribution to the acceleration of the social and political evolution of the 19th century by granting Brazil in 1824 and Portugal, two years later, constitutional charters that were extremely advanced for the time and broke away from the concept of the Divine Right of Kings. In 1826, on the death of João VI, Dom Pedro inherited his father's kingdom. However, he abdicated the Portuguese throne soon after in favour of his infant daughter, Maria da Glória, who became Queen Maria II. In 1831, he abdicated the throne of Brazil in favour of his son, Dom Pedro II, who was still a minor. This decision, prompted in part by differences with the Brazilian Parliament, was also motivated by an

adventurous spirit which took him back to Portugal to oust his brother, Miguel, who had usurped the throne from young Queen Maria.

Pedro II (1831-1889)

Unlike his father, Pedro II grew up to be a stern, temperate, scholarly monarch. During his rule of half a century, Brazil reached political and cultural maturity, and the unity of the vast country was firmly secured. Political and social institutions developed peacefully and attained stability. A competent administration was created, slavery was progressively eliminated until its complete abolition in 1888, European immigration was actively promoted, and health and welfare schemes were planned on a national scale. The influence exercised by the Emperor on the people and institutions of the country did much to

ensure that the transition from Monarchy to Republic, when it eventually came, took place without bloodshed.

the empire

Although peace and stability were maintained within the country under the Empire, Brazil was exposed to external threats along its southern frontier during this period, which brought about the War of the Triple Alliance. This was a long and unpopular war (1865–1870) in which Brazil united with Argentina and Uruguay against Paraguay. Under the peace treaty of 1872, Brazil guaranteed the territorial integrity of Paraguay and renounced all its claims to indemnities and payment of war debts. This was the last armed conflict Brazil has ever had with any of its ten neighbours.

the republic



Opera House in Manaus



Baron of Rio Branco

End of the Empire: abolition of slavery (1888)

The final abolition of slavery is usually regarded as the most immediate cause for the fall of the monarchy. With the Emperor away in Europe, his daughter, Princess Isabel, acted as Regent. On 13 May 1888, responding to the collapse of slavery as a workable system and yielding to pressures from

the abolitionists, she signed the so-called Golden Law (*Lei Áurea*) abolishing slavery in Brazil.

the republic

It must be noted that by the end of the 19th century, slavery in Brazil was declining under pressure from immigrant labourers whose wages cost less than the upkeep of slaves. Nevertheless, the Golden Law set off a reaction among slave owners that rapidly eroded the political foundations of the monarchy. After a few months of parliamentary crises, the Emperor was deposed on 15 November 1889, by a military movement that proclaimed the abrogation of the monarchy and the establishment of the Republic.

This institutional transformation, albeit profound, was carried out without bloodshed. Although treated with all possible respect, the Emperor and his family had to be asked to leave the country. Accompanied by some close associates, they went into exile in France. Most of the leading figures of the country lent their support and collaboration to the new regime; among them was one of Brazil's most outstanding statesmen, the Baron of Rio Branco. It was his wisdom and skilful diplomacy that enabled Brazil to end, by treaty or arbitration, nearly all its outstanding frontier disputes.



*The first republican president,
Marshal Deodoro*

Federation and presidential system

The newborn republic adopted a federal system that has kept the same characteristics until today. Under federation the provinces of the Empire were transformed into states. The parliamentary system was replaced with a presidential one; a bicameral Congress (Chamber of Deputies and Senate) was created, as well as a completely independent Supreme Court. At the state level the same structure was adopted. President after president, elected under the rules of the prevailing constitutional system, succeeded one another in office until 1930.

the republic

The new Republic (1930-1937)

The so-called First Republic lasted until 1930 when, for the first time, the government was overthrown by force. The

main aim of the victorious revolutionary movement headed by Getúlio Vargas, a politician from the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, was the reform of an electoral and political system which, in the absence of strong national parties, had led to the practice of electing presidents supported by the governors of the leading states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais. The governors, in turn, secured the election of congressional representatives pledged to carry out the policies of the central government. Getúlio Vargas, who was to govern Brazil for the next 15 years, came to power at a troubled time. The country was feeling the effects of the world depression, which drastically reduced the price of coffee. The domestic political scene was affected not only by the resultant financial crisis, but also, as the decade advanced, by clashes between militant minorities inspired by ideas from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy on one hand, and by the Communist ideology.



Catete presidential palace in Rio

The Vargas era (1938-1945)

In 1934, after the Vargas regime had been consolidated, a new constitution was introduced which greatly widened the franchise and gave the vote to women. In late 1937, shortly before the presidential elections were due, the heated political atmosphere and disruptive activities led President Vargas to declare a state of emergency. Vargas followed up his declaration by dissolving Congress and assuming extraordinary powers to govern by decree under an authoritarian charter. However difficult the times, some important policies



President Vargas (centre) with President Roosevelt (left)

were adopted then which included the introduction of advanced social welfare legislation, a reform of the educational system and substantial progress in industrialisation, including the construction of Brazil's first big steel mill (1942–1946).

When World War II started, the Vargas government could not ignore the spontaneous preference of the majority of Brazilians for the Allies. Popular sentiment, further inflamed by the hostile actions of German U-boats off the Brazilian coast, forced the President to abandon a neutral stance. In August 1942 Vargas declared war on the Axis powers. Brazil equipped a 25 000-man strong Expeditionary Force which, attached to the US Fifth Army, fought in Italy. Brazil was the only American country, besides the US and Canada, to send armed forces to the European theatre of war.

Post-war Brazil (1945–1964)

As the war in Europe drew to its close, Vargas was forced to resign and elections were held to appoint a successor. Going to the polls for the first time in 15 years, the electorate gave the majority of their votes to General Eurico Gaspar Dutra who had been Vargas's Minister of the Army during the war. A new democratic constitution was approved by a constituent assembly in 1946. It remained in force until 1967. Dutra's term came to an end in 1951. Meanwhile Vargas, who had sat out his exile at his ranch in Rio Grande do Sul, had prepared for the elections. Vargas had come to reap some of the rewards of his progressive measures in the fields of social welfare and trade union legislation. At the conclusion of Dutra's term, Vargas was constitutionally elected president of the republic. In 1954, in the middle of a bitter political crisis, Vargas committed suicide. A caretaker administration finished his term of office.

Brazil experienced five years of accelerated economic expansion under President Juscelino Kubitschek (1956–1961), the founder of Brasília. President Jânio Quadros, who resigned after less than a



*President
Juscelino Kubitschek*

year in office, followed him. Quadros's vice-president was João Goulart. Goulart was sworn in as president only after Congress hastily voted in a parliamentary system which drastically curtailed presidential powers. In a plebiscite held four months later, however, President Goulart was able to persuade the voters to restore the old presidential system. Rampant inflation and political polarisation between left and right led to two-and-a-half tumultuous years of political and social unrest and economic crisis. Fearing Goulart's Marxist leanings, the military overthrew him in a coup on 31 March 1964.

Military rule (1964–1985)

The period 1964 to 1985 was one of military rule, with some relaxation of control after 1979. This period saw five presidents, all of them generals in the armed forces. The first, Castello Branco, came to power on a wave of anti-communism. His main task was to stabilise the country's political and economic situation. Extensive amendments were made to the Constitution to provide the government with the powers and mechanisms to achieve those goals. During the next 15 years, 1968–1983, the government issued several Institutional Acts that were, in effect, presidential decrees. Many individual and collective rights were suspended during this period. New austere measures affected economic and political life. Collective bargaining was eliminated, strikes were virtually outlawed, and the working class movement was curtailed.

By 1968, in the term of President Arthur da Costa e Silva, the economic strategies appeared to be working. Inflation was contained and foreign firms began to make new investments, assured of the regime's stability. Politically, however, in response to the continued unrest, the government became increasingly repressive. President Costa e Silva resigned in 1969 because of illness. He was immediately succeeded by a mili-



President Figueiredo (centre)

tary junta and two months later by Emílio Garrastazu Médici. Between 1967 and 1974 Brazil enjoyed one of the greatest rates of economic growth in the world with real growth as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) reaching 14 per cent in 1973. By the mid 1970s Ernesto Geisel, who was then president, proposed a period of decompression in gradual steps which would lead to restoration of democratic rule. In 1979, João Baptista Figueiredo was inaugurated President. This was also the beginning of the opening ('*abertura*'), the process of restoring the political rights which had been revoked. Many of the country's exiles were allowed to return. The year also marked an acceleration of the public's demand for re-democratisation. Figueiredo maintained a steady hand on the opening process. In 1982, the country held direct elections for state governors, the first such elections since 1965.

Return to democracy (1985)



President-elect Tancredo Neves

In 1984 there were nationwide demonstrations demanding immediate direct elections ('*Diretas Já*') to choose a new president. In January 1985, Tancredo de Almeida Neves was chosen president by an Electoral College. His election was significant because he was not only the first civilian president to be elected in 21 years, but also because he was the candidate of an opposition coalition. On 14 March 1985, on the eve of his inauguration, Neves was rushed to hospital as a result of a lingering illness he had endured for several months. The man who became acting president was Vice-President José Sarney. When Neves died five weeks later, José Sarney was sworn in as president promising to maintain the course set by Tancredo Neves. The first priority of President Sarney was the calling of general elections in order to gather a National Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution. Never in the history of Brazil was there such a high degree of popular participation in the drafting of a law. After 18 months of deliberations a new constitution was promulgated on 5 October 1988.

In the first direct presidential election held since 1960, Fernando Collor de Mello was elected President in a run-off election that took place in December 1989. On 29 September 1992, following allegations of corruption

within his government, Collor was suspended as President by the Chamber of Deputies for 180 days during which time the Senate was to complete a trial and decide whether to remove him permanently. On 29 December 1992, minutes after the Senate had begun to try him on corruption charges, Collor resigned, but the Senate decided nonetheless to impeach him by a large majority. Three hours later, Itamar Franco, who served as Vice-President under Collor, was sworn in as President to serve the remaining two years of Collor's five year term. Collor's impeachment by the House of Deputies, his trial by the Senate and his resignation mark a new chapter in the political history of Brazil. During Itamar Franco's presidency, a comprehensive plan for curbing inflation was implemented.



President Fernando Henrique Cardoso

On 3 October 1994 voters cast 78 million ballots for a new President of the Republic. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a sociologist and former Finance Minister responsible for President Franco's economic plan, received the absolute majority needed to win the presidency in a first round election. He took office on 1 January 1995, for a four year term. His first year in office saw a steady decline in the rate of inflation, opening the way for both sustained economic growth and for determined government action in social reform. Cardoso was elected for a second term on 4 October 1998.




President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

President Lula (2003)

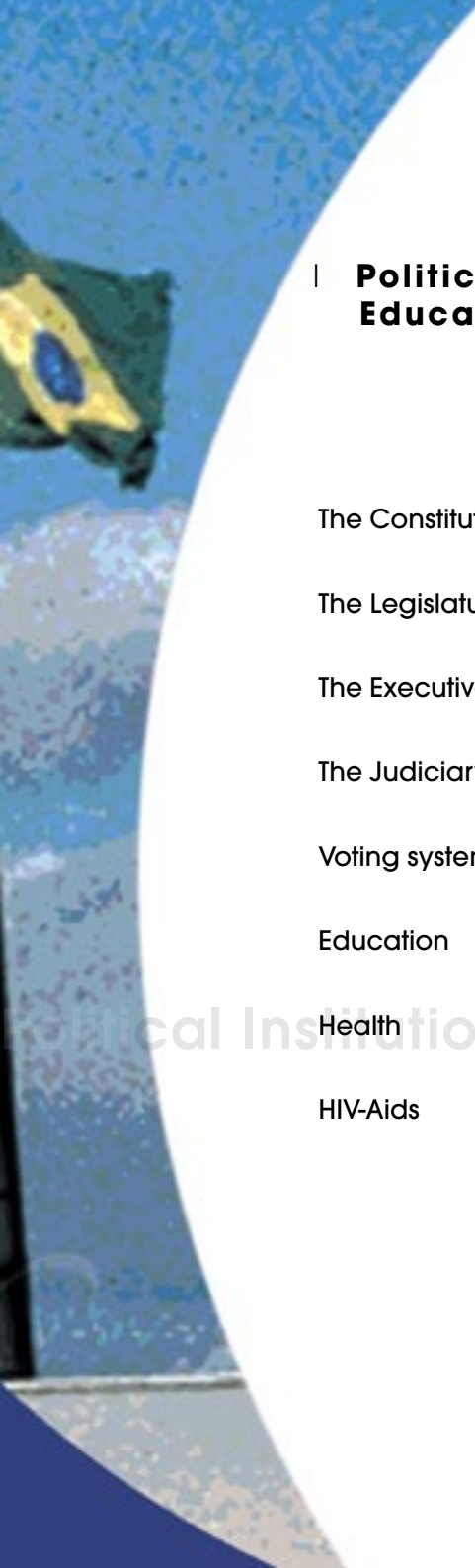
President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn in on 1 January 2003. In his inaugural speech as President of Brazil, Luis Inácio Lula da Silva said that the greatest mission of his life is to ensure that at the end of his mandate every single Brazilian is able to eat three meals a day. His dream is becoming a reality.

The battle to stamp out hunger and malnutrition is being won through a series of social policies adopted by the government. The backbone of these initiatives is the *Fome Zero* programme, an articulated effort undertaken by the federal government.

The volume of federal funds allocated to *Fome Zero* programmes attests to the government's commitment to enriching the menu of everyday Brazilians: total funding in 2005 will reach R\$ 14,5 billion, almost double the R\$ 7,36 billion invested in 2004.



*Political
Institutions,
Education
& Health*



| **Political Institutions, Education & Health** |

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Coat of Arms



Brazilian flag

the constitution and the federal structure

After the monarchy had been abolished, Brazil's first Constitution under the Republic (1891) established a presidential system with three independent powers: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial powers. This structure was retained in Brazil's six subsequent republican constitutions, including the present Constitution, drafted by a specially empowered National Congress elected in 1984 and formally promulgated on 5 October 1988. The 1988 Constitution incorporates a great many new concepts ranging from environmental protection to increased powers for the Legislature in its relationship with the Executive. Since 1992 important amendments have been adopted mostly pertaining to economic issues.

Brazil is a federal republic comprising 26 states and one Federal District where Brasília, the capital of the country, is situated. Each state has its own government, with a structure that mirrors the federal level, enjoying all the powers (defined in its own Constitution) that are not specifically reserved for the federal government or assigned to the Municipal Councils. The head of the state executive is the Governor, elected by direct popular vote under the Federal Constitution. The one-chamber state legislature is a State Assembly. The state judiciary follows the federal pattern and has its jurisdiction defined so as to avoid any conflict or superimposition with the federal courts.

At the municipal level there are over 5 561 Municipal Councils, which are autonomous in strictly local affairs. The Municipal Councils operate under the provisions of the Basic Law of Municipalities.

the constitution and the federal structure

the legislature



*The Seal of
the Republic*

The national legislature is the National Congress (*Congresso Nacional*), composed of two houses, the Chamber of Deputies (*Câmara dos Deputados*) and the Federal Senate (*Senado Federal*).

The number of members in the Chamber of Deputies from each State and the Federal District is proportional to its population. Deputies are elected for four-year terms by direct secret ballot under the system of universal franchise which is adopted for all elections to public office.

The Senate is composed of 3 Senators from each state and the Federal District, elected for a term of eight years. Senatorial elections are staggered (one-third and then two-thirds) every four years, in elections held concomitantly with those for the Chamber of Deputies. A Deputy and a Senator can stand for re-election without restriction. There are 81 Senators and 513 members of the Chamber of Deputies.

*The Presidential office building
(Planalto palace)*



the executive

the executive

The Executive, with its powers clearly defined in the Constitution, is headed by the President of the Republic. The President and the Vice-President are elected for a four-year term. An amendment to the Constitution in 1997 permits the President and the Vice-President to serve for a second consecutive term.

The President appoints the Cabinet Ministers who are directly responsible to him or her and who may be dismissed at any time. A Minister may be summoned to appear before the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, or any of its committees.

the judiciary

Judicial powers are vested in the Federal Supreme Court (*Supremo Tribunal Federal*), in the Superior Court of Justice (*Superior Tribunal de Justiça*), regional courts, and in specific courts for electoral, labour, military and other matters. The justices and judges of all the courts, at both the federal and the state levels, are appointed for life.

The Federal Supreme Court is at the apex of the judicial system. It has its seat in the national capital, Brasília, but holds jurisdiction throughout the country. It is composed of 11 justices, of proven legal and constitutional training and experience, appointed by the President of the Republic, with the prior approval of the Senate.



The Supreme Court

voting system



The Congress

Voting is universal and compulsory for all literate citizens from 18 to 70 years of age. Voting is optional for citizens aged 16 and 17, for senior citizens above 70, and for illiterates of any age. In the last municipal elections in 2000, more than 95 per cent of the votes were cast in electronic voting machines. Because of that, the

preliminary results were announced in less than two hours after the polls had closed and the official results in 18 of the 26 states were known in just 24 hours.

Candidates must belong to a political party. The registration of a political party is effected by the Higher Electoral Tribunal, following the fulfilment

of certain minimum requirements established by legislation. In a presidential or a gubernatorial election a candidate must receive an absolute majority to win the election. If no candidate receives this mandate the two candidates gaining the highest number of votes compete in a run-off election (second round) held 20 days after the first election.

voting system

education



The Brazilian educational system includes both public (federal, state and municipal) and private institutions, ranging from pre-school, elementary (First Level – *I Grau*), and secondary (Second Level – *II Grau*) to university and postgraduate levels. Education is compulsory from seven to fourteen years of age. All public education is free. Three meals are provided by the government each school day to 37,5 million (2004) pre-school (under seven years of age) and elementary school children (aged seven to fourteen). Non-profit private schools are also eligible to receive public funding. The 1988 Brazilian Constitution as amended allocates at least 25 per cent of state and local tax revenues to education. In the last 25 years significant advances have been made in the Bra-

education

zilian educational structure. In 1964, there were 10 million students attending school at all levels. In 2004, there were 52,7 million students: 6,9 million in pre-school; 34,1 million at the elementary level; 9,1 million at the secondary level; and 2,7 million at university. Nowadays, 94,5 per cent of the high school-aged youth are enrolled in school.

After successful results in Campinas and in the Federal District, the federal government has implemented a school grant programme throughout the country. The main objective of this programme is to encourage school attendance. The programme is structured as follows: in exchange for a monthly allowance, mothers sign an agreement pledging to keep their children at school. The local authority provides an allowance which replaces any income gained from child labour with the assurance on the part of the families benefiting from the Programme that the children will stay in school.

The federal government maintains at least one federal university in each state. Owing to the great demand for higher education and the lack of places, colleges (*faculdades*) and universities in Brazil, both public and private, require an entrance exam called *vestibular*. Upon completion of a full academic course of study, university students may obtain the *bacharel* degree or, with an additional year spent in teacher training, the *licenciado* degree. In 2003 there were a total of 1 859 tertiary institutions – offering 16 453 courses.

Until the 1980s there were few postgraduate courses in Brazil. However, in 2003 more than 2 400 postgraduate courses were available (with 112 000 students enrolled), most of which benefit from highly capable faculties, on a par with similar institutions in other countries.

health

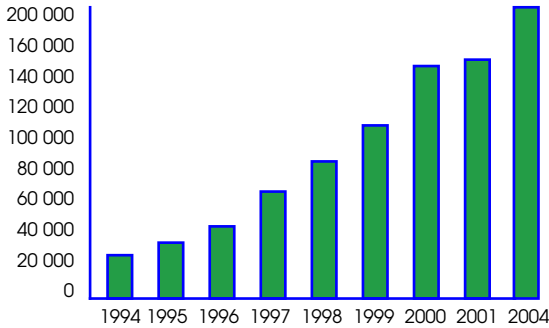


The Brazilian Health System is one of the largest public-health networks in the world. It is decentralised and devolves the operation of services and the implementation of various activities to the states and municipalities. The management of the system also relies on the participation of society, which operates through state and municipal health councils in the planning and control of actions implemented by the Government.

The Family Health Programme is the structural axis of the new model of health care, and it is aimed at expanding access by the population to basic health and preventive services, by means of Community Agents and Family-Health Teams.

Community Health Agents – of which there are more than 201 000 working in 19 900 Health Teams – are responsible for the monthly monitoring of over 96 million people all over the country. The number of Community Health Agents, which in 1994 was under 30 000, was multiplied nearly sevenfold in only ten years.

Community health agents (number of agents)



Source: Ministry of Health

The Child Health and Breastfeeding Programme was responsible for the expansion of the National Network of Human Milk Banks to 173 units. Deemed one of the best in the world, the network collects more than 100 000 l of human milk a year, benefiting more than 70 000 newborn infants considered to be at risk. Another important achievement of the programme is the vaccination of 90 per cent of the children from birth to one year of age against 13 diseases.

Infant mortality up to the age of one year for each thousand born alive has decreased from 47,8 in the early 1990s to 27,8 in 2002.

In the field of nourishment and nutrition, the Healthy Nourishment Programme is aimed at reducing and controlling malnutrition and deficiencies in micronutrients in health services, as well as at promoting healthy nourishment throughout the different cycles of life.

HIV-AIDS



The reduction of the incidence of AIDS in Brazil is an achievement of the health programmes put into practice in the last three years. Currently, the epidemic is still growing, yet at decreasing rates.

In 1995, the number of cases of AIDS in Brazil was 11,9 per 100 000 inhabitants. In 2003 this figure rose to 18 per 100 000, and has remained at this threshold.

hiv-aids

In 1999 the situation started to change. Since then the Ministry of Health has accredited 130 maternity hospitals for treatment with AZT injections, which has reduced the transmission of the virus to infants by up to 95 per cent.

Anti-retroviral medicines were purchased and distributed to 115 000 people carrying HIV-AIDS. Similar and generic medicines are now being produced in Brazil. This ensures cost reduction and maintenance of the policy of universality aimed at providing access to anti-retroviral medicines.

In addition to measures aimed at informing the population on contact risks, the Ministry of Health distributed condoms to the population.

the Economy

the economy

| **the Economy** |

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historical perspective

Brazil's economic history has been marked by a succession of cycles, each resulting from the exploitation of a single export commodity. In the first years of colonisation it was timber (brazil wood). In the 16th and 17th centuries it was sugar cane. In the next century gold, silver, diamonds and emeralds took over. Finally, after a series of inland expeditions, coffee replaced everything else in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Slave labour was relied upon for production until the last quarter of the 19th century. Paralleling these cycles, small-scale agriculture and cattle ranching were developed for local consumption.

Small factories, mainly textile factories, began to appear in the mid-19th century. Under Emperor Pedro II new technologies were introduced, the fledgling industrial base was enlarged, and modern financial practices

historical perspective

were adopted. With the collapse of the slave economy (it was cheaper to pay wages to new immigrants than to maintain slaves), the abolition of slavery in 1888, and the replacement of the monarchy by the republican regime in 1889, Brazil's economy suffered severe disruption. The endeavours by the first republican governments to stabilise the financial environment and revitalise production had barely succeeded when the worldwide effects of the 1929 depression forced the country into new readjustments.

A first surge of industrialisation took place during the years of World War I, but it was only from the 1930s onwards that Brazil reached a level of modern economic behaviour. In the 1940s, the first steel works was built in the state of Rio de Janeiro at Volta Redonda with US Eximbank financing.

The industrialisation process from the 1950s to the 1970s led to the expansion of important sectors of the economy such as the automobile industry, petrochemicals and steel, as well as to the initiation and completion of large infrastructure projects. In the decades after World War II, the annual gross national product (GNP) growth rate for Brazil was among the highest in the world averaging 7,4 per cent until 1974.

historical

During the 1970s Brazil, like many other countries in Latin America, absorbed excessive liquidity from US, European and Japanese banks. Huge capital inflows were directed to infrastructure investments and state enterprises were formed in areas that were not attractive for private investment. The result of this capital infusion was impressive: Brazil's GDP increased at an average rate of eight per cent per annum from 1970 to 1980 despite the impact of the 1970s world oil crisis. Per capita income rose fourfold during the decade, to US\$2 200 in 1980.

In the early 1980s, however, a sudden substantial increase in interest rates in the world economy coinciding with lower commodity prices precipitated Latin America's debt crisis. Brazil was forced into a strict economic adjustment that brought about negative growth rates. The unexpected suspension of capital inflows reduced Brazil's capacity to invest. The burden of its debt affected public finances and contributed to an acceleration of inflation. In 1987 the government

suspended Brazilian interest payments on foreign commercial debt.

The crisis of the 1980s signalled the exhaustion of Brazil's 'import substitution' model and contributed to the opening up of the country's economy. (*Import substitution* is a policy that nurtures local industry by prohibiting the purchase of certain manufactures abroad.) In the early 1990s, Brazil's economic policies were centred on economic stabilisation, opening up the economy to international trade and investment, and normalising relations with the international financial community. This was achieved rapidly: import tariffs were reduced (the average is now 12 per cent), and quantitative restrictions were eliminated, making Brazil one of the very few countries in the world that does not impose quotas on its imports. In 1992 Brazil reached an agreement with both public and commercial creditors to reschedule its foreign debt payments, exchanging old debt for new bonds. This rescheduling marked Brazil's return to the international fi-

historical perspective

perspective

nancial markets. The turning point in the stabilisation process came with the launching of the Real Plan in June 1994. (Brazil's new unit of currency is the real, pronounced ree ál.)

The Real Plan has three main objectives: (1) keeping inflation under control; (2) obtaining a steady and substantial reduction of social imbalances; and (3) achieving long-term sustainable growth of GDP, investment, employment and productivity. In 1998, price increases were the lowest in four decades, around 2 per cent down from more than 2 100 per cent in 1993 before the launching of the Plan. Price stabilisation represented a significant redistribution of income in favour of the most needy. In the period 1995–1997 cumulative GDP growth was 17 per cent, an average of 4 per cent a year, while per capita income average growth was 2,6 per cent. The increase of industrial productivity, which averaged 7 per cent a year in the 1990s, is very important to ensure sustained growth in the future. Since the implementation

of the Plan, net flows of direct foreign investment have skyrocketed, from US\$2,2 billion in 1994 to over US \$30 billion in 2000.

With a GDP of US\$605 billion in 2004, the Brazilian economy is dynamic and diversified. In 2004 industry was responsible for 38,0 per cent of economic output, agriculture for 6 per cent, and services accounted for 56,0 per cent. The performance of exports, among other areas, reflects the dynamism of the country's economy. From 1992 to 2004 Brazilian exports increased from US\$35,7 billion to US\$96 billion. Over 70 per cent of these exports were manufactured goods. The European Union (EU) absorbs 25,5 per cent of Brazilian exports, the US 24,7 per cent, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUL) 11 per cent, Asia absorbs 12 per cent, Latin America (non-MERCOSUL) 10 per cent, Africa 3,4 per cent and the remaining exports are distributed over a variety of other markets.

mercotel

On 26 March 1991, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUL) was created when Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay signed the Treaty of Asunción. The trade pact took effect as a customs union and partial free trade zone on 1 January 1995. The aim of MERCOSUL is to facilitate the free movement of capital, labour, and services among the four countries.



economic data

The Brazilian workforce totalled an estimated 79,2 million, or 45 per cent of the population in 2003. Overall, the workforce expanded at an average annual rate of 3,2 per cent during the 1980s. Currently, the workforce is expanding at a rate roughly equal to the population growth rate. Women account for 38 per cent of the total Brazilian workforce, up from 28 per cent in 1980.

In 2004, Brazil ranked as the twelfth largest economy in the world.



industrial development

Brazil's industrial development has been brisk during the last two decades. Between 1947 and 1960, when the process of import substitution was at its apex, an outstanding rate of expansion was achieved. After 1960, however, the pace of industrial expansion slowed down, largely because the existing economic infrastructure could no longer sustain the same high rate of growth.

From 1964 onwards the federal authorities undertook a comprehensive programme to overcome these obstacles and to provide an economic environment conducive to the renewed expansion of the industrial sector, both public and private. In the last 25 years Brazil has succeeded in diversifying and expanding the production of manufactured goods and consumer durables. Furthermore, it has established technologically sophisticated industries, especially in the fields of telecommunications, electronic data processing, biotechnology and new materials. Four key sectors – steel, automotive, petrochemicals, and utilities – have played a decisive role not only in the development of the industrial sector, but in the expansion of the economy as a whole.



power generation

power generation

Endowed with hydroelectric potential estimated at 260 million kilowatts (the world's highest), and lacking significant deposits of thermal coal (and, until recent discoveries, of petroleum), Brazil has invested heavily in the planning and building of dams to satisfy the power requirements of a rapidly growing economy. The first hydroelectric power plant began operation in 1889, generating 250 Kw, only half of the power then generated thermally. One century later, the proportion had become dramatically different: 45 871 000 Kw of hydroelectricity to 7 295 000 Kw of thermoelectricity, a ratio of 6,28 to 1.

The Itaipu power plant, the biggest hydroelectric plant in the world, is located on the Paraná River on the Paraguay-Brazil frontier, not far from Iguacu Falls. It is a bilateral project between the governments of Paraguay and Brazil. The Itaipu Treaty was signed in 1966. Construction began in the mid 1970s and by 1985 three of the 18 turbo generators (of 700 MW each) had already started operation. Now, with all 18 turbo generators functioning, power production from Itaipu is 12 600 000 million Kw divided equally between Brazil and Paraguay. The Tucuruí Dam, built in the south-east of the Amazon basin, has added 11 200 000 million Kw to Brazil's generating capacity.

Brazil's power system is composed of two interconnected grids, one for the north and north-west and the other for the south, south-east and west-central. According to the Brazilian Electricity Regulatory Agency (ANEEL), Brazil's total hydropower potential amounts to 260 GW, of which only 25 per cent is being used in the production of electricity by the small, medium and large power plants. Privatising generation and distribution, liberalising grid access, and permitting large consumers to choose their energy suppliers are all expected to increase the development of the vast potential of the Brazilian electricity sector in the near future.

In 2002, 83,7 per cent of all the electric power generation was hydroelectric and the remainder was thermal (natural gas and coal), wind and nuclear.



oil and petrochemical industry

Until 1953 the crude oil production in Brazil was only about 2 000 barrels a day, and the domestic refining capacity was just over twice that figure, making the country heavily dependent on imports. In that year, after long and sometimes difficult debates, Congress enacted legislation establishing the state-owned oil company Petrobras. Having been granted exclusive rights for oil exploration and production, Petrobras quickly set about identifying commercially viable oil deposits to become a self-sustaining, large-scale enterprise. Private enterprise was allowed to participate in the refining and distribution stages. At the beginning of the new century, oil production in Brazil had reached more than 1 500 000 barrels a day, heading for self-sufficiency.

The reason for this enormous increase is due to Petrobras's search for oil after the oil crises of the 1970s. Foreign companies were also invited to expand the search,

oil and petrochemical industry

particularly offshore near to the coastal cities. As a consequence of new techniques developed by Petrobras, that company holds the world record for ultra-deep sea drilling, having reached a depth of 1 700 m.

The Campos field near Rio proved to be the most productive, but there were several others including some in the Amazon Region. By 2001, Brazil was producing about two-thirds of its oil and gas needs. In addition, since 1998, with the construction of the Brazil-Bolivia pipeline giving

Brazil access to Bolivia's extensive gas fields, natural gas has become more and more important in the country's energy matrix.

Brazil's petrochemical industry has also experienced rapid expansion. Currently, Brazil has three petrochemical complexes, located in the states of Bahia (north-east), Rio Grande do Sul (south) and São Paulo (south-east) with an overall total ethylene production capacity of 1,4 million tons a year.

oil and petrochemical industry

ethanol industry
**ethanol
industry**



To better balance Brazil's petroleum consumption with its crude oil production, intensive research was conducted from the late 1960s through the early 1970s to identify an economically viable alternative to oil as a fuel source. Ethanol, extracted from sugar cane, was chosen as one of these alternatives. The objective of the National Alcohol Programme (PROALCOOL), established in

ethanol industry **77**

1975, was to use ethanol as a fuel substitute for petrol and to increase ethanol production for industrial uses.

By 1985, when the programme had been in operation for ten years, some US\$6,5 billion had been invested in the production of 13 billion gallons (50 billion l) of ethanol, some 500 000 jobs had been created, 2,5 million vehicles were running on pure ethanol, and all the petrol at filling stations had an admixture of 20 per cent ethanol. Brazil now has technology and equipment capable of maintaining a 4 billion gallons (16 billion litres) annual output and of exporting the related technology, equipment and services. Finally, by dramatically reducing the level of carbon monoxide released by motor vehicles, PROALCOOL is contributing to Brazil's efforts towards protecting the environment.



motor vehicles

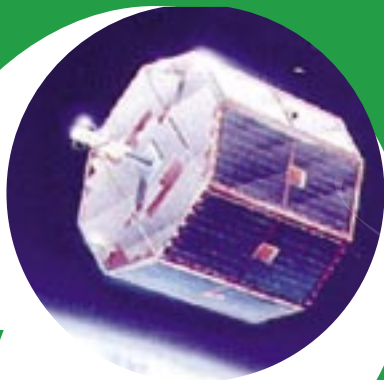
First established in the mid-1950s, during President Kubitschek's administration, the Brazilian automotive industry gained renewed dynamism with the trade liberalization initiated in 1990, the introduction of economic cars in 1993, and the start of the Real Plan in July 1994. Brazil ranks eleventh in the world output of vehicles. In 2001 it produced almost 1,8 million vehicles and earned more than US\$ 4 billion from exports; motor vehicles accounted for almost 8 per cent of the total value of Brazil's exports for the year. It is expected that Brazil will become one of the largest automotive producers in the near future.



Although a Brazilian was one of aviation's first pioneers, the aircraft industry in Brazil only began in earnest 30 years ago. Today the success of planes wholly designed and manufactured in Brazil, mainly by Embraer, and exported to countries on every continent, makes Brazil's aircraft industry the fourth largest in the world. Embraer was Brazil's largest exporter from 1999 to 2001 and the second largest in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

A pioneer in the air

In 1899, four years before Wilbur and Orville Wright flew a heavier-than-air machine at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Alberto Santos Dumont, a Brazilian, piloted a dirigible that left from the field of the Aero Club of France, circled the Eiffel Tower, and returned to its base in 29,5 minutes. It was an 11 km trip. In 1906, before official witnesses and a large crowd in Paris, Santos Dumont won the Taça Archdeacon Prize when he flew a self-propelled, heavier-than-air machine for 250 m.



space industry

space industry

The Brazilian space industry has also experienced growth. Through the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the National Institute of Space Research (INPE), it has been involved in the Brazilian Space Programme which comprises the construction of satellites and the launching of space vehicles, as well as wide-ranging collaboration with NASA to integrate Brazil's participation in the International Space Station. Brazil's SCD-2, a data collection satellite which collects environmental and meteorological information from platforms in Brazil and other South American countries, was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral in October 1998. The China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS-1) was launched in October 1999. It is an earth observation satellite that uses remote sensing, among many other tasks, to detect or monitor deforestation, forest fires and floods in the Amazon Region. The CBERS-2 was launched in October 2003.

As a consequence of its privileged geographical location near the equator, the Alcântara Launch Centre is one of the most promising sites available for the launching of commercial satellites and other loads.

The International Space Station

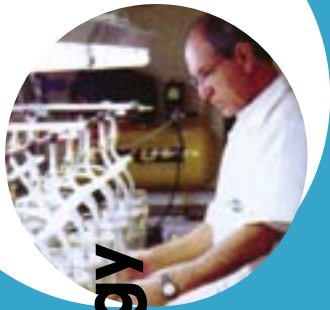
The International Space Station (ISS), being built by 16 countries (US, Russia, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Brazil), will be the largest in-orbit laboratory ever made. It already provides a micro gravity environment for basic, applied and commercial research in physical, chemical and biological processes. The ISS will also serve as an important means for engineering development and as an observation platform for earth and space science researchers.



communications

The present Brazilian telecommunications system links Brazil to the world through communication satellites. Television, radio and telephone systems make it possible to reach any part of the country or the world right away. The government plays a major role in providing telecommunication services. After the US, Great Britain and France, Brazilian television was the fourth in the world to go on air daily, and TV Globo, the most well-known Brazilian television station, is the fourth largest television network in the world, surpassed only by the three largest American stations – ABC, CBS and NBC. The Brazilian telephone

system has been greatly expanded in recent decades as well, serving more than 15 000 localities. Privatisation in the 1990s has brought competition to the sector and huge investments to upgrade and expand the network. Nowadays, more than 53 million fixed telephones are in use, as well as 65 million cellular telephones. Brazil also has over 2 500 radio stations. In the late 1980s some 58,9 million radios and 36 million television sets were in service. The country has more than 529 daily newspapers, but most have a relatively small circulation. Major dailies include: *O Dia*, *O Globo* and *Jornal do Brasil* in Rio de Janeiro; *Folha de São Paulo* and *O Estado de São Paulo* in São Paulo; and *O Estado de Minas* in Belo Horizonte. Brazil ranks seventh among the nations that most use the Internet.



biotechnology

Brazil is the world leader in sequencing the genome of plant pathogens. In the year 2000, Brazilian researchers attracted world attention when they announced the mapping of the genes of the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium, which is responsible for diseases in several economically important cultures: variegated citrus chlorosis in oranges, Pierce's disease in grapevines, phoney peach disease, coffee leaf scorch, and other diseases in plums, almonds and pears. In 2002, *Nature* magazine registered the sequencing of the genes of two other bacteria by Brazilian laboratories: *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri*, which causes canker in citrus fruits, and *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*, which causes black rot in broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. Brazil is also the second largest contributor to genetic research on cancer to the Gene Bank, a world-wide net which files all the data relating to the human genome.



agriculture

agriculture

From the earliest years of the colonial era, agriculture has held centre stage in Brazil's economy. Plantation agriculture was the country's link to the world economy. The agrarian economy was based on large holdings dedicated to a single export crop and dependent on slave labour for its production. Beginning with sugar cultivation in the 16th century, the country's economic trends have been susceptible to a series of boom-bust agricultural cycles. Cotton, cocoa, rubber, and coffee followed sugar.

The 1970s saw a general rise in the number of agricultural products exported. Soybeans outpaced Brazil's traditional agricultural earners – coffee, cocoa and sugar. The volume, value and variety of semi-processed and manufactured agricultural products have increased substantially, largely as a result of government incentives favouring processed goods over raw crops.

Agriculture in the 1980s continued to play a significant role in the country's economy, but no longer did a single crop dominate in the way sugar, coffee, or rubber had at their peaks. Through fiscal incentives and special credit facilities, the Federal Government strongly promoted greater efficiency in rural areas. Furthermore, efforts were made to alter the movement of people from rural communities to urban areas by extending equal social benefits, establishing rational schemes for agrarian reform, stimulating hitherto uneconomical smallholdings and, in general, improving the quality of life in areas that are quite remote from the main centres. This has permitted Brazilian farmers not only to produce more for the domestic market, but also to increase their exports.

The various programmes undertaken in the last two decades to promote diversification of crops have borne impressive results. The production of grains has grown consistently, including wheat, rice, maize and particularly soybeans. In 2004 Brazil produced 119.6 million tons of grains.

Brazil ranks second among poultry- and beef-producing countries worldwide. Its herd is the second largest in the world. The overwhelming majority of cattle – around 80 per cent – are raised for beef.



transport

From its earliest colonial history, transport has always been a challenge for Brazil because of its size and topography. In the last 30 years this challenge has finally been met: a systematic approach has been adopted to plan and implement a national system of integrated surface transport – road, rail and water.

Road

Although road transport is often more expensive than other modes, it is virtually unmatched as a fast means of moving comparatively small amounts of cargo and passengers over short distances. This is one of the main reasons why road transport is the most

widely used mode in Brazil. However, the domination of this mode of transport tends to be reduced due to several factors, such as enhanced port efficiency, privatisation of railroads and investment in waterways. Brazilian highways are of modern design. Paved roads link practically all state capitals. São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and other major cities have modern metropolitan expressways. Of Brazil's 1 700 000 km of roads, about 10 per cent are paved. The federal government is responsible for over 35 per cent of the paved road system. Approximately 10 000 km of the federal highway network has already been privatised.

Rail

As the most appropriate method of moving non-perishable cargo over long distances, rail is the second most important mode of transport in Brazil. The total length of the nation's rail network, main and branch lines, is 29 706 km. As a result of the privatisation process of the entire federal rail network and the privatisation of the São Paulo state railroad company in 1996/97 this situation has been somewhat altered. After investments of more than US\$2 billion the share of total volume has increased over the years.

Water

Until now Brazil's long coastline and vast waterways in most of the hinterland have not been fully exploited for waterborne transport. Brazil has 46 organised ports, 24 of which are ocean ports. Among the busiest are Santos, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande and Paranaguá.

Air

Brazil's physical characteristics and the requirements of fast economic growth (starting in the 1930s), led to the establishment of a vast network of air services. Today the availability of air transportation far exceeds demand. In the first years of this century occupancy rates were around 53 per cent for cargo flights and 56 per cent for passenger flights (almost 40 million passengers – 20,5 m domestic and 19,5 m international); only 0,5 per cent of cargo and 10 per cent of passengers were transported by air.

Approximately 31 foreign owned airlines fly to Brazil and 20 locally owned airlines operate in the country. Of the latter, 8 operated domestic and international routes. There are some 500 air taxi companies and 300 specialised operators offering services such as crop spraying and training. Of the 67 civilian public airports, 25 are international. The busiest international airports are Guarulhos in São Paulo and Tom Jobim Galeão in Rio de Janeiro.

culture

Culture

culture



The 'sermons' of Father Vieira

| **Culture** |

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literature



Father Antônio Vieira

Brazilian fiction, poetry and drama account for about half the literary output of Latin America, calculated by the number of titles of individual books.

Literary development in Brazil roughly follows the country's main historical periods – the Colonial period, from 1500 until independence in 1822, characterised mostly by writings in the Baroque and Arcadian styles, and the National period since 1822. Important literary movements during the National period can be linked to the country's political and social development: the Romantic Movement in literature coincided roughly with the 57 years of the Empire. The Parnasians and the Realists flourished during the early decades of the Republic, followed, around the turn of the century, by the Symbolists. In the 20th century, the ascendance of the Vanguardist or Modernist Movement, with ideas of an avant garde aestheticism, was celebrated during the famous São Paulo Week of Modern Art in 1922. This movement profoundly influenced Brazil's literature, painting, sculpture, music and architecture.

Many of the notable writers of the Colonial Period were Jesuits who were entranced by the new land and the native inhabitants. Among the luminaries of this period were Father

Literature



José de Anchieta (1534–1597), a poet dedicated to the evangelisation of the Indians, Gregório de Matos (1623–1696), who composed poetry layered on lyricism and mysticism but is best known for his satirical vein, and the famous preacher Father Antônio Vieira (1608–1697). The Arcadians, Cláudio Manoel da Costa (1729–1789), Basílio da Gama (1740–1795) and Tomás Antônio Gonzaga (1744–1810), wrote lyric and epic poems and were also known for their involvement in the liberation movement called Minas Conspiracy (*Inconfidência Mineira*).

The transfer, in 1808, of the Portuguese royal family to Brazil brought with it the spirit of the incipient European Romantic Movement. Brazilian writers began to emphasise individual freedom, subjectivism, and a concern for social issues. Following Brazil's independence from Portugal, Romantic literature expanded to exalt the uniqueness of Brazil's tropics and its Indians, concern for the African slaves, and to descriptions of urban activities. Some of the best known figures of the Romantic Period were poets, such as Castro Alves (1847–1871) who wrote about African slaves and Gonçalves Dias (1823–1864) who wrote about Indians. Manuel Antônio de Almeida (1831–1861) is credited with initiating picaresque literature in Brazil. José de Alencar (1829–1877) wrote a number of popular novels including *Iracema* about Indians, *O Guarani*, a historical novel, and novels on regional, social and urban affairs. Among the novelists of the Romantic period, two are still widely read in Brazil today – Joaquim Manuel de Macedo (1820–1882), who wrote *A Moreninha* and Alfredo d'Escragnole Taunay (1843–1899), the author of *Inocência*.

The Parnassian school of poetry was, in Brazil as in France, a reaction to the excesses of the Romantics. The so-called Parnassian Triad of Brazilian poets – Olavo Bilac (1865–1918), Raimundo Correa (1860–1911) and Alberto de Oliveira (1859–1937) – wrote refined poetry in which the poet's personality and interest in social issues were obliterated.

At the turn of the century the Brazilian literary imagination was drawn to Symbolism, represented by poets Cruz e Souza (1861–1893) and Alphonsus de Guimarães (1870–1893). The Symbolists were interested in mysticism and used metaphor and allegory to express their ideas.



Machado de Assis.

Machado de Assis (1839–1908), widely acclaimed as the greatest Brazilian writer of the 19th century and beyond, was unique because of the universality of his novels and essays. Today, Machado de Assis remains one of the most important and influential writers of fiction in Brazil. His works encompassed both the Romantic style and Realism.

Euclides da Cunha (1866–1908) committed his prose to a Brazilian literature portraying social realities. His famous work, *Os Sertões (Rebellion in the Backlands)*, about a revolt in the north-east led by a religious fanatic, was published in 1902.

Beginning in the 20th century, an innovative state of mind imbued Brazilian artists, culminating in the celebration of the Week of Modern Art held in São Paulo in 1922. This new way of thinking propelled an artistic revolution that appealed to feelings of pride in national folklore, history and ancestry. Participants in the Week of Modern Art resorted to experiments in writing and in fine arts known elsewhere as Futurism, Cubism and Dadaism. Poet Menotti del Picchia summarised the aims of the new artistic movement with these words: 'We want light, air, ventilators, airplanes, worker's demands, idealism, motors, factory smokestacks, blood, speed, dream in our Art.' The most important leader of the literary phase of this movement was Mário de Andrade (1893–1945) who wrote poetry, essays on literature, art,



Carlos Drummond de Andrade

music, and Brazilian folklore, and *Macunaíma*, which he called 'a rhapsody, not a novel'. Oswald de Andrade (1890–1953) wrote a collection of poems entitled *Pau-Brasil (Brazilwood)* that evaluated Brazilian culture and superstitions.

The transition to a more spontaneous literary approach is represented by poets Carlos Drummond de Andrade (1902–1987), who used irony to dissect the customs of the time, and Manuel Bandeira (1886–1968), who built language associations around proverbs and popular expressions. Bandeira wanted his last poem 'to be eternal, saying the simplest and least intentional things'.



Cecília Meireles

The modern Brazilian novel took on a new shape and social content after José Américo de Almeida (1887–1969) wrote *A Bagaceira*, a pioneer story about the harsh conditions of life in the backward north-east. He was followed by Jorge Amado (1912–2001), Graciliano Ramos (1892–1953), José Lins do Rego (1901–1957), and Rachel de Queiroz (1910–2003), all noted for the power of their images in evoking the problems and hardships of life in the North-east Region where they were born.



Jorge Amado

Jorge Amado's first novels, translated into 33 languages, were influenced by his belief in Marxist ideas and concentrated on the sufferings of workers on the cocoa plantations of his home state of Bahia, producing a succession of books which

have received worldwide acclaim. *Gabriela, Cravo e Canela* (*Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon*) is perhaps the best known of Amado's books. *Dona Flor e seus Dois Maridos* (*Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*) has provided the scripts for films, plays, and television.

Arguably the most innovative Brazilian writer of his century was João Guimarães Rosa (1908–1967). A career diplomat, he first captured the attention of the public and critics alike with a volume of short stories, *Sagarana*, soon followed by his best known work *Grande Sertão: Veredas*, translated into English as *The Devil to Pay in the Backlands*. Delving deep into speech mannerisms from the hinterland region of the eastern seaboard, Guimarães Rosa started something of a semantic revolution. He dared to present his readers with coined word combinations and syntax so unrestrained as to constitute almost a new language.

There are many other noteworthy Brazilian writers. Gilberto Freyre (1900–1987), a master of style and a pioneer of the new school of Brazilian sociologists, is the author of *Casa Grande e Senzala* (*The Masters and the Slaves*),

a perceptive study of Brazilian society. One of the best known Brazilian poets is João Cabral de Melo Neto (1920–1999). His poetry is sober and he uses words with the accuracy with which an engineer would use his building materials. Special mention must be made of Vinicius de Moraes (1913–1980). His poetry became part and parcel of the bossa nova musical movement, which produced a new style of samba, the typically Brazilian rhythm. Vinicius (as he is known worldwide) also wrote a play, *Orfeu da Conceição*, which became internationally famous as the film *Black Orpheus*.

Among more contemporary novelists, mention should be made of Orígenes Lessa, Adonias Filho, Érico Veríssimo, Dinah Silveira de Queiroz, Lygia Fagundes Telles, Herberto Sales, Rubem Fonseca, Clarice Lispector, Dalton Trevisan, Nélide Piñon, Osman Lins, Paulo Coelho, Raduan Nassar and Moacyr Scliar; and among the poets: Raul Bopp, Murilo Mendes, Augusto Frederico Schmidt, Mário Quintana, Cassiano Ricardo, Jorge de Lima, Ferreira Gullar, Cecília Meireles, Augusto de Campos and Haroldo de Campos.

music

music

Brazil's origins – the Indians with their reed flutes, the Portuguese with their singers and viola players, and the Africans with their many thrilling rhythms – make it a musical country. From the classical compositions of Villa-Lobos, to the soft sounds of bossa nova and the driving beat of samba, Brazil has developed music of striking sophistication, quality and diversity.

When the Jesuit fathers first arrived in Brazil they found that the Indians performed ritual songs and dances accompanied by rudimentary wind and percussion instruments. The Jesuits made use of music to convert the Indians to Christianity by replacing the original words with religious ones using the Tupi language. They also introduced the Gregorian chant and taught the flute, bow instruments and the clavichord. Music accompanied the sacramental ceremonies that were performed in village and church plazas.



Heitor Villa-Lobos



Maestro Tom Jobim



Folklore group

African music was introduced during the colony's first century and was enriched by its contact with Iberian music. One of the most important types of music used by the black slaves was the comic song dance called *lundu*. For a long time it was one of the typical popular musical forms and it was even sung in the Portuguese Court during the 19th century. In the second half of the 18th century and during the 19th century, the sentimental love song called the *modinha* was popular and it was sung both in Brazil's salons and at the Portuguese Court. No one knows if the *modinha* was born in Brazil or in Portugal.

Schools of music existed in Bahia in the early 17th century and religious music was played in churches throughout the colony. As with other art forms, musical activity intensified with the arrival of the Royal Family in 1808. King João VI, a music lover, sent to Europe for the composer Marcos Portugal, and for Sigismund von Neukomm, an Austrian pianist, a pupil of Haydn. Local musicians also attracted the King's attention, such as José Nunes Garcia (1767–1830) who was a notable improviser on the organ and clavichord. João VI appointed him Inspector to the Royal Chapel, a body which had more than 100 instrumentalists and singers.

By the end of the century, Carlos Gomes (1836–1896), born in the town of Campinas in the state of São Paulo, produced a number of operas in the prevailing Italian style, especially *Il Guarany*, an opera based on the famous novel by José de Alencar about a colonial villain who incites an Indian attack in order to gain a Portuguese nobleman's treasure and his daughter as a bride. Brasília Itiberê (1848–1913) was the first Brazilian composer to use a popular national motif in erudite music. His 1869 composition, *A Sertaneja* (*The Country Maiden*), was played by Franz Liszt and has remained active in the piano repertoire.

As in literature and painting, the Week of Modern Art in 1922 revolutionised Brazilian music and brought acceptance to a crop of new composers. Led by Heitor Villa Lobos (1887–1959), they brought avant-garde techniques from Europe and undertook the challenge of transplanting Brazilian folkloric melodies and rhythms to symphonic compositions. Their music often incorporated many popular musical instruments into classical orchestras.



Ary Barroso and singer Elizeth Cardoso

After a time, two main trends in Brazilian music became identifiable. Writer Mário de Andrade had advocated that composers should seek inspiration in national life with special emphasis on Brazil's musical folklore. Composer Camargo Guarnieri, an adherent of Andrade, headed the musical school known as Nationalist. Other composers in this group include Luciano Gallet (1893–1931), Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez (1897–1948), Francisco Mignone (1897–1986), Radamés Gnattali (1906–1988) and Guerra Peixe (1914–1993). In widely differing compositions, these composers searched for a national language that would not lose the universal character of musical language. After 1939, another musical school began to assert itself principally as a result of the work carried out by Hans Joachim Koellreutter, the creator of the Live Music Group. This group made up of Cláudio Santoro (1919–1990), Eunice Catunda (1915–), Edino Krieger (1928–), among others, based their music on the universality of musical language. They defended the use of atonalism and dodecaphonism as composition resources.

Brazil's popular music developed in parallel to its classical music and it also united traditional European instruments – guitar, piano and flute – with a whole rhythm section of sounds produced by frying pans, cuícas and tambourines. During



Percussion instruments

the 1930s Brazilian popular music played on the radio became a powerful means of mass communication. Three of the best known composers of this period are Noel Rosa, Lamartine Babo and Ary Barroso. Barroso's principal singer, Carmen Miranda, went on to achieve an international reputation when she appeared in a series of Hollywood films.

In the mid-1960s, the haunting, story-telling lyric of 'The Girl From Ipanema', carried by a rich melodic line, was the first big international hit to emerge from the *bossa nova* movement of Brazilian singers and composers. It put Brazilian popular music on the map and brought instant fame to composer Antonio Carlos (Tom) Jobim (1927–1994) and lyricist-poet Vinicius de Moraes (1913–1980).

The *bossa nova* appeared in Rio de Janeiro in the late 1950s. At first it was played as an intimate music

in the apartments of Rio's middle and upper middle classes. The music mingled the Brazilian samba beat with American jazz. Later on *bossa nova* became a trademark of a new concept of music – a little sad, sometimes sung off-key, and where the lyrics have great importance. For that reason, in Brazil, the association of modern poets with pop composers (Vinicius de Moraes, Chico Buarque, Tom Jobim, João Gilberto, Luiz Bonfá and Baden Powell) was an enormous success.

In 1968, in a period of dictatorship, urban guerrillas, and anxiety about how to change the political system, the Tropicalists appeared having Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil, Gal Costa and Os Mutantes, as their main representatives. Tropicalism can be described as a blending of international music (such as Latin beats and rock'n'roll) with national rhythms. It is very much its own creation – lyrical, intelligent, with faster tempos and fuller rhythms than the *bossa nova*.

Popular regional music in Brazil includes the *forró* from the north-east where the accordion and the flute join guitars and percussion in a foot-stamping country dance; the *frevo*,



Milton Nascimento

also from the north-east, which has an energetic, simple style; the *chorinho* (literally 'little tears') from Rio which combines various types and sizes of guitars, flutes, percussions and an occasional clarinet or saxophone in a tender form of instrumental music. However, the most typical of Brazilian popular music is the seductive rhythm of the samba. No one is sure of the exact origin of the samba. Some people believe that the samba was born in the streets of Rio de Janeiro with contributions from three different cultures – Portuguese country songs, African rhythms, and native Indian fast footwork. Others believe the samba is simply African in origin and that it evolved from the *batuque*, a music based on percussion instruments and hand clapping.

Today in Brazil, popular music continues to explore new rhythms and new melodies. Its interpreters and composers make use of all musical resources to compete for and please the world's many music audiences. Some of the well-known performers are: Maria Bethânia, Roberto Carlos, Ney Matogrosso, Rita Lee, Milton Nascimento, Hermeto Pascoal, Fafá de Belém, Renato Russo, Elba Ramalho, Ed Motta, Alceu Valença, Luiz Gonzaga, Luiz Gonzaga Jr, João Bosco, Djavan, Ivan Lins, Marisa Monte and Elis Regina.



cinema

cinema

cinema

Within a year of the Lumière brothers' first experiment in Paris in 1896, the cinematograph machine appeared in Rio de Janeiro. Ten years later, the capital boasted 22 cinema houses and the first Brazilian feature film, *The Strangers* by Antônio Leal, had been screened. From then on Brazil's film industry made steady progress and, although it has never been large, its output over the years has attracted international attention.

In 1930, still the era of the silent movie in Brazil, Mario Peixoto's *Limite* (*Limit*) was made. *Limite* is a surrealist work dealing with the conflicts raised by the human condition and how life conspires to prevent total fulfilment. It is considered a landmark film in Brazilian cinema history. In 1933 Cinédia produced *The Voice of Carnaval*, the first film with Carmen Miranda. This film ushered in the *chanchada*, which dominated Brazilian cinema for many years. *Chanchadas* are slapstick comedies, generally filled with musical numbers, and are greatly appreciated by the public.



By the end of the 1940s Brazilian filmmaking was becoming an industry. The Vera Cruz Film Company was created in São Paulo with the aim of producing films of international quality. It hired technicians from abroad and brought back from Europe Alberto Cavalcanti, a Brazilian filmmaker with an international reputation, to head the company. Vera Cruz produced some important films before it closed in 1954, among them the epic *O Cangaceiro (The Brigand)* which won the Best Adventure Film award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1953.

In the 1950s, Brazilian cinema changed radically. In his 1955 film, *Rio 40 Graus, (Rio 40 Degrees)* director Nelson Pereira dos Santos employed the filmmaking techniques of Italian neo-realism by using ordinary people as actors and by going to the streets to shoot his low budget film. Nelson Pereira dos Santos would become one of the most important Brazilian

filmmakers of all time, and it is he who set the stage for the Brazilian *Cinema Novo* movement. Other directors went outdoors to shoot, and film production increased. In 1962, *O Pagador de Promessas (The Payer of Vows)* by Anselmo Duarte (based on a play by Dias Gomes) won the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival. By this time *cinema novo* had established a new concept in Brazilian filmmaking – ‘an idea in mind and a camera in the hand.’ The *cinema novo* films dealt with themes related to acute national problems, from conflicts in rural areas to human problems in the large cities, as well as film versions of important Brazilian novels. *Vidas Secas (Barren Lives)*, directed by Pereira dos Santos, is based on a novel by Graciliano Ra-



mos. It tells the story of a north-eastern family chased from their home by drought. *Deus e o Diabo na Terra do Sol (God and The Devil in the Land of the Sun)* by director Glauber Rocha deals in an allegorical way with

religious and political fanaticism in Brazil's north east. *Noite Vazia (Empty Night)*, by Walter Hugo Khoury, goes back to urban, intimate themes depicting the anguish of lonely people living in industrial São Paulo.

At the end of the 1960s, the Tropicalist movement had taken hold of the music, theatre and art scene in Brazil. It emphasised the need to transform all foreign influences into a national product. Cinema also came under its spell; allegory was its means of expression. The most representative film of the Tropicalist movement is *Macunaíma*, by Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, a metaphorical analysis of the Brazilian character as expressed in the tale of a native Indian who leaves the Amazon jungle and goes to the big city. The film is based on Mario de Andrade's 1922 novel of the same name.

Working at the same time as the Tropicalists, another group of directors emerged in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro who also made low cost films. This movement – *cinema marginal* – produced films with themes about a marginalised society. Noteworthy among these films are *Rio Babilônia (Rio Babylon)* by Neville d'Almeida, *Matou a Família e foi ao Cinema (He Killed the Family and Went to the Movies)* by Júlio Bressane, and *O Ban-*

dido da Luz Vermelha (The Red Light Bandit) by Rogério Sganzerla.

The Government film agency, EMBRAFILME, created in 1969, was responsible for the co-production, financing and distribution of a large percentage of films in the 1970s and 1980s, but ceased operations in 1990. EMBRAFILME added a commercial dimension to the film industry and made it possible for it to move on to more ambitious projects. Among the acclaimed films of the mid 1970s were Pereira do Santos's *Amuleto de Ogum (Ogum's Amulet)* about *candomblé* and Joaquim Pedro de Andrade's *Guerra Conjugal (Connubial War)*. In a series of sketches, Dalton Trevisan, relates the humour and travails of married life. *Dona Flor e seus Dois Maridos (Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands)*, directed by Bruno Barreto, was an international success. Based on the novel by Jorge Amado, the film is a delightful story about a widow living a triangular affair with her second husband and her deceased husband's spirit.

In the 1980s, some important films were made. Many were concerned with political questions: *Eles não Usam Black Tie (They Don't Wear Black-tie)*, 1981, directed by Leon Hirzman, tells the story of a strike in the industrial



area of São Paulo; *Memórias do Cárcere* (*Memories of Prison*), 1984, by Nelson Pereira dos Santos and based on a book by Graciliano Ramos, portrays the life of political prisoners. One of the most outstanding films of the 1980s was *A Hora da Estrela* (*The Hour of the Star*), 1985, directed by Susana Amaral and based on a novel by Clarice Lispector. It relates the poignant story of an immigrant girl from the north-east in a metropolis. The other outstanding films of the 1980s were *Bye Bye Brasil* about a circus caravan dealing with the inescapable fact that its audience is declining, directed by Carlos Diegues, and *Pixote*, the realistic and disturbing tale of juvenile delinquents in São Paulo, performed by non-professionals, directed by Hector Babenco.

As a result of a 1993 law giving financial incentives to Brazilian film production, the number of films currently being produced in Brazil has increased dramatically and many Brazilian films are being shown in movie theatres all over the world. *O Quatrilho*, a tale of two married immigrant couples set in Rio Grande do Sul, where the husbands are partners and end up exchanging wives, directed by Fábio Barreto (1996) and *Four Days in September* (1998), the true story of the 1969 kidnapping of the American Ambassador to Brazil, directed by Bruno Barreto were both Oscar nominees for Best Film in a Foreign Language. *Central do Brasil* (*Central Station*), directed by Walter Salles, won the Golden Bear Grand Prix at the Berlin International Film Festival in 1998, captured the 1999 Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe award for foreign language film, and was also nominated for an Oscar.

More recent and successful releases such as *Eu, Tu, Eles*, by Andrucha Waddington; *O Invasor*, by Beto Brant; *O Bicho de Sete Cabeças*, by Lais Bodanzky; *Deus é Brasileiro*, by Carlos Diegues; *O Caminho das Nuvens*, by Vicente Amorim and *O Homem que Copiava*, by Jorge Furtado have indicated that Brazilian cinema is entering a new phase.



dance

dance

Resorting to the rich variety of Brazilian music and creative choreographies, dance companies such as Corpo, Ballet Stagium, Cisne Negro, Quasar, ASQ and Giro have conquered foreign audiences with award-winning performances. It is noteworthy to mention that the Bolshoi Ballet has established its only school outside Russia, the Bolshoi Theatre School, in Brazil, in the city of Joinville, in the southern state of Santa Catarina.



fine arts

From the 16th century, Roman Catholic churches and convents in Brazil were decorated in the European style, often by Brazilian craftsmen who had been trained in European methods. During the 17th and 18th centuries, baroque and rococo patterns imported from Portugal dominated Brazil's religious architecture and its interior decor. Many of these churches can be seen today.

The most impressive artist of the whole colonial period was the architect and sculptor Antônio Francisco Lisboa (1738–1814), better known as *Aleijadinho* ('the Little Cripple'). The self-taught son of a Portuguese settler and a slave mother, he was a master of sophisticated rococo decoration and his painted wood sculpture and stone statuary have a timeless grandeur. In mid-life, Aleijadinho contracted a crippling disease, but he continued to work for 30 years with chisel and mallet strapped to his wrists. His artistry is seen in many of the baroque churches in his home state of Minas Gerais, in the town of Ouro Preto and in the surrounding area. In the neighbouring town of Congonhas do Campo, at the Church of Bom Jesus de Matosinhos, he sculpted 12 life-sized soapstone statues of the Prophets and placed them on the terrace and staircase outside the entrance. In front of the church's



terraced stairs, in six small devotional chapels, he created the Stations of the Cross with 66 poignant statues in cedar wood.

During the last four decades of the eighteenth century, new art appeared (especially in Rio de Janeiro) in which religious themes were no longer predominant. Works with temporal themes, such as portraits of exalted personages, became part of Rio's artistic production.

At the beginning of the 19th century there was a process of Europeanisation with the coming of the Portuguese Court to Brazil as a result of the invasion of Portugal by Napoleon Bonaparte's troops. Dom João VI, the refugee Portuguese monarch, encouraged Rio de Janeiro's intellectual activity, founding cultural institutions such as the Royal Press and the National Library. In addition, he



brought a group of French masters to Brazil to establish an Academy of Arts and Crafts after the style of European art academies, and to implement the neoclassic style in the modernisation plan for the royal capital of Rio de Janeiro. Artists such as the Taunay brothers, architect Auguste Grandjean de Montigny (1776–1850), and painter Jean Baptiste Debret (1768–1848) were part of the group. Debret, the most important of the French artists, systematically documented landscapes, people, and rural and urban customs. The tradition established by Debret and his colleagues was so strong that neoclassicism and participation in academies ruled Brazilian visual arts well into the Republican era.

At the Week of Modern Art held in São Paulo in 1922, artists discussed their dissatisfaction with the academic world in all fields of Brazilian art. The modernists wished to shock the academicians. It is not clear if the



1922 movement caused or coincided with some changes in outlook. It certainly opened broad new avenues such as the critical pursuit of quality, the search for new values, and the rejection of the old European stereotypes. There was no precursor of genius in Brazilian painting: in the 1920s painting simply emerged out of the shadows of the academy and joined the wave of innovation then sweeping Europe. The techniques were imported, but the moods and themes were clearly Brazilian. In 1913, Lasar Segall (1891–1957) was the first artist to exhibit modern art. One of the most important participants in the Week of Modern Art was Emiliano Di Cavalcanti (1897–1976), a true Bohemian from a family of poets and generals who liked to carouse in the underworld of Rio and paint seductive, mulatto women.

Cândido Portinari (1903–1962) was one of the first Brazilian artists to paint his way to international fame. Coming from a small coffee plantation in the interior of São Paulo, he experimented with Brazilian themes and colours. Once he sent for 60 pounds of earth from different areas and mixed the black, purple, reddish, and yellow dirt with his paint. Portinari captured in his canvases the way of life of ordinary people, conveying their joys and sufferings in a dramatic way. The universality of his work led to invitations and commissions from many sources, among them the monumental murals at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and murals on the theme of war and peace at the United Nations in New York.



fine arts

World War II brought about an interruption in the contact of Brazilian artists with the international art world, even though many foreign artists lived in Brazil. With the end of the war, financial sponsorship began to stimulate artistic production. In the late 1940s the Modern Art Museum was founded in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo got two museums – the Art Museum of São Paulo founded by Assis Chateaubriand and the Museum of Modern Art. With the numerous courses given in these museums, art exhibitions and other museum activities were stimulated throughout Brazil. The São Paulo Biennial, founded in 1951 by Francisco Matarazzo Sobrinho, helped to call Brazilian artists to the attention of an international audience, and to introduce foreign artistic innovations to Brazil. During the 1950s the Biennials were the most important artistic events in Latin America making São Paulo the centre of great exhibitions of contemporary art and of flashbacks of international movements.

Today, the art scene in Brazil is self assured. Brazil's painters, sculptors, engravers and lithographers show their works both within Brazil and in museums and galleries throughout the world. Famous contemporary artists include: Hélio Oiticica, Lygia Pape, Amélia Toledo, Cildo Meireles, Jac Leirner, Regina Silveira, José Rezende, Waltércio Caldas Jr, Anna Bella Geiger, Rubem Valentim, Glauco Rodrigues, Ernesto Neto, Tunga and Adriana Varejão.



folk arts

folk arts

The Portuguese who first landed on Brazilian soil in the 16th century began the transplantation of European culture to Brazil. While the Portuguese were still forming small, cautious groups to explore the unknown beaches, native Indian potters were at work. Indigenous craftsmen were polishing ceremonial axes of flint. Musicians and dancers decked out in fibre masks, plaited straw, and fantastic feather helmets were retelling the legends of the flood and the creation. Brazilian culture is more than the simple result of specific contributions by white Europeans, black Africans and aboriginal Indians. Miscegenation among them has been taking place ever since their very first contacts. These three cultures have insinuated themselves into the way Brazilians feel and act. Today it is dif-

ficult to trace their dividing lines. Brazilian folk arts are among the richest and most varied in the hemisphere.

Folk dance

Brazilian folk dance and folk drama are rich forms of popular artistic expression. Subject, rhythm, costume, and choreography reveal the three principal components of the nation's culture in a complex interaction.

There are dozens of Brazilian folk dances – everything from dramatisations of the early wars between the Portuguese and the Indians (*Caboclinhos* and *Caiapós* performed in the states of Pernambuco and Alagoas), to the *Cavhalhada* of Pirenópolis in the state of Goiás, a theatrical pageant, lasting three days, which depicts the



fight between the Christians and the Moors on the Iberian Peninsula. The *Cavallhada* survives from the tradition of medieval tournaments.

Folk drama

In addition to the folk dances, there are many dance dramas (really theatrical productions) popular in Brazil that trace their histories directly to the Middle Ages. Portuguese in origin, these dance dramas have been modified considerably through centuries of exposure to Brazil's diverse cultures. Mario de Andrade, one of the greatest authorities on national folklore, has classified these dance dramas into four principal groups: *reisados*, *cheganças*, *pastoris* and *ranchos*.

Reisados: The *Reisados* consist of a series of 24 folk plays of which the most popular is the *Bumba-Meu-Boi*. The plot of the *Boi* drama centres around the misfortunes of the prize

bull that a wealthy cattle rancher has arduously searched for to improve his herd. The most famous of these parties is the *Boi Bumbá* from Parintins in the state of Amazonas.

Cheganças: *Cheganças* (arrival) is a folk play performed during the Christmas season. It tells of the arrival by sea of the Moors, their defeat, and their eventual baptism by the Christians.

Pastoris: *Pastoris* ('shepherds') started as a performance of Christmas carols in front of the Nativity scene in preparation for midnight mass. Today *pastoris* is a secular event. Female street revellers parade in parallel lines called the red and blue lines. Each line has the same characters: the teacher, Diana, the pretty angel, the gypsy, the old man (a comedian), the Northern Star, and the Southern Cross, among others. The girl shepherds sing and rattle tambourines accompanied by guitars and a solo wind instrument.

Ranchos: Among the most primitive forms of carnival, as celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, were the *ranchos*, solemn and romantic love stories acted out by dancers to the beat of a marching rhythm. New *ranchos* were written

every year and groups of dancers representing various districts of Rio performed them. They competed for recognition and prizes thus becoming the forerunners of today's samba schools.

Capoeira



Capoeira, is a ritualised, stylised, combat dance with its own music, and practised primarily in the city of Salvador, Bahia. It is a characteristically Brazilian expression of both dance and martial arts. It evolved from a fighting style that originated

in Angola. In the early slave days there were constant fights between the slaves, and when the owner caught them at it, he had both sides punished. The slaves considered this unfair and developed a smokescreen of music and song to cover up actual fighting. Over the years this has been refined into a highly athletic sport in which two contestants try to deliver blows using only their legs, feet, heels and heads – hands are not allowed.

The combatants move in a series of swift cartwheels and whirling handstands on the floor. The musical ensemble that accompanies *capoeira* includes the *berimbau*, a bow-shaped piece of wood with a metal wire running from one end to the other. A painted gourd that acts like a sounding box is attached at the bottom of the *berimbau*. The player shakes the bow. While the seeds in the gourd rattle he strikes the taut wire with a copper coin that gives off a unique, moaning sound.



Ceramics and Sculpture

In the north-east of Brazil, the most popular sections of the large markets are the displays of potters' and vendors' artistic clay objects, many of which are true sculptures. A number of these local artisans are known not only to Brazilian folklorists, but also to artistic circles outside Brazil. Familiar names are Severino, whose characteristic work is in unglazed clay, Mestre (Master) Vitalino, the most famous of the folk potters, perhaps because he signed his creations, and Zé Caboclo, from the town of Caruarú, the principal centre of folk sculpture in the State of Pernambuco. The ceramics portray complete scenes of daily activity, including animals (the horse, the cock, and the Zebu bull) and religious characters (priests and saints).

Today's potters follow traditions laid down by Indian cultures that existed in the Amazon region well before the arrival of the Portuguese in



the 16th century. At least four of these cultures are noteworthy for their ceramics: on the vast island of Marajó in the mouth of the Amazon River potters moulded vases that were later decorated with labyrinthine patterns. The last of five archaeological periods on the island, the Marajoara, is the most famous. In the Santarém region, Indian potters made urns and *igaçabas* (funeral urns) embellished with an amazing panoply of animals. They transformed the fauna of the Amazon into intricate and baroque fantasies of men and animals. The cultures of Cunani and Maracá (in the present day state of Pará) also produced remarkable pottery.

Carnival

Carnival's roots go back to the ancient Romans and Greeks who celebrated the rites of spring. In the Middle Ages, when the Catholic Church tried to suppress all pagan ideas, it failed when it came to this celebration. The church incorporated the rite into its own calendar as a period of thanksgiving. The nations of Europe, especially France, Spain and Portugal, gave thanks by throwing parties, wearing masks, and dancing in the streets. All three colonising powers carried the tradition with them to the New World, but in Brazil it landed with a difference. Not only did the Portuguese have a taste for abandoned



merriment (they brought the *entrudo*, a prank where merry-makers throw water, flour, face powder, and many other things at one another's faces), but the black slaves also took to the celebration. They would smear their faces with flour, borrow an old wig or frayed shirt from the master, and give themselves over to mad revelry for the three days. Many masters even let their slaves roam freely during the celebration. Since the slaves were grateful for the chance to enjoy themselves, they rarely used the occasion as a chance to run away.

Prior to 1840, the streets of Brazilian towns ran riot during the three-day period leading up to Ash Wednesday with people in masks hurling stink bombs and squirting one another with flour and strong-smelling liquids; even arson was a form of entertainment. In 1840, the Italian wife of a Rio de Janeiro hotel owner changed the carnival celebration forever by sending out invitations, hiring musicians, importing streamers and confetti, and

giving a lavish masked ball. In a few years the masked ball became the fashion and the wild pranks played on the streets disappeared.

Today Rio de Janeiro has the biggest and best known pre-Lenten carnival in the world – its most colourful event is the Samba Schools Parade. The samba schools taking part in the parade – each roughly having three to five thousand participants – are composed overwhelmingly of poor people from the city's sprawling suburbs. Every carnival Rio's samba schools compete with one another and are judged on every aspect of their presentation by a jury. Each samba school must base its effort on a central theme. Sometimes the theme is a historical event or personality. At other times, it is a story or legend from Brazilian literature. The costumes must reflect the theme's historical time and place. The samba song must recount or develop it, and the huge floats must detail the theme in depth.



Other famous Carnivals in Brazil take place in Salvador, Bahia, with its afro-blocs and *trio-elétricos* (trucks loaded with heavy sound equipment), and in Recife Olinda, in Pernambuco, with its *frevó* and *maracatu* rhythms.

Festas Juninas



Originating in pre-Christian Europe to honour the harvest and fertility, the *Festas Juninas* were brought to Brazil by the Portuguese. Unlike the Carnival, it celebrates the ego, the constancy of life and hard work. In actual fact, it is a celebration of three saints: street parties start on 13 June, which is also the day of St Anthony of Padua. For the next two weeks, the frenzy increases, reaching the height of country style

bliss on the *Dia de São João*, feast day of St John the Baptist, on 24 June. On 29 June, on St Peter's and St Paul's Day, things start to wind down.

A festival of fertility, the main feature of the *Festas Juninas* are children. Little boys wear patchwork pants and neck bandannas. Their faces are painted with signs of manhood – small pointed moustaches and smears of 5 o'clock shadow. Little girls blossom in gingham and flowered dresses with puffed sleeves, ruffles and ribbons. Swirls of rouge and fake freckles decorate their cheeks.

The traditional dance of the *Festas Juninas*, is the *Quadrilha* (square dancing) in the Southern and South-eastern States and the *farró* especially in the North-eastern Region. Throughout the night fireworks glitter over the churning masses to scare the bad spirits away.



architecture

architecture

Brazilian colonial architecture was derived from Portugal, with adaptations demanded by the tropical climate. The more enduring examples of this very attractive style are to be found in the churches and monasteries of the older cities, but most spectacularly in Ouro Preto, the first capital of the province of Minas Gerais. This city has been meticulously restored and protected as part of Brazil's heritage and it is now on Unesco's World Heritage List.

From the second half of the 19th century to the beginning of this century Brazilian architects were under a pervasive French influence. Since then, without losing contact with innovators in other countries, such as Le Corbusier in France and Frank Lloyd Wright in the US, architecture in

Brazil has evolved its own style. It now attracts worldwide attention as one of the country's most characteristic art forms. The volume and pace of urban expansion during the last 30 years have provided exceptional opportunities for combining social and functional needs with artistic expression. The result has been not only the burgeoning of many fine buildings, but also the birth of entire suburbs and completely new cities.

Good examples of modern Brazilian architecture from its early period in the 1940s are: the passenger terminal at Santos Dumont Airport by the Roberto brothers and the Ministry of Education, both in Rio de Janeiro; the low-cost apartment buildings at Pedregulho outside Rio by Affonso Reidy; the Museum of Modern Art



in São Paulo; and the wave-shaped Church of Pampulha in Belo Horizonte designed by Oscar Niemeyer. Later examples of modern Brazilian architecture are much more numerous. Some of the most distinguished are: Reidy's Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, (1950s); Vilanova Artigas's Faculty of Architecture in São Paulo (1960s); Olavo Redig de Campos's Brazilian Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1970s); Lina Bo Bardi's Pompéia Cultural Centre, São Paulo (1980s); and Luis Filgueiras Lima's Sarah Kubitschek Hospital in Salvador, Bahia (1990s).

Of course, the best-known example of modern Brazilian architecture is the new capital city of Brasília, where imagination was given full flight. The urban plan conceived by Lúcio Costa and the design of the main public buildings by architect Oscar Niemeyer have become landmarks in the realm of architecture on a massive scale. Especially noteworthy are Brasília's Cathedral (considered by many to be Niemeyer's finest achievement)

with its clasped fingers of concrete reaching prayerfully to the sky, and Palácio Itamaraty (home of Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Relations) with its soaring concrete arches and water garden. (Niemeyer was also a participant in the group of architects who designed the United Nations building in New York City and the headquarters building of the Communist Party in Paris.)

New buildings alone cannot create beautiful and harmonious urban environments. Alongside the bold new architectural concepts, a school of landscape designers headed by Roberto Burle Marx has arisen in Brazil to balance the images of concrete and glass structures with the welcoming greenery of gardens and parks. As a result of his work in many Brazilian cities, Burle Marx has acquired an international reputation. Examples of his work are now to be found in public and private gardens and parks in the Americas and in Europe.



sport

Brazilian fondness for sport in general is shown by the existence of some 8 000 sports clubs throughout the country. No other sport in Brazil can compare in popularity to football, where it is called *futebol*. This passion for the sport is reflected in the number and size of soccer stadiums across the country. The Maracanã Stadium, built in Rio de Janeiro for the 1950 World Cup, is the largest in the world with a capacity for 200 000 people. There are five other stadiums in the country that can accommodate over 100 000 people each. The Brazilian team is the only one to have participated in all World Cup Finals, and to have won the tournament five times – in 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002. Even people who are not particularly keen on soccer know Brazilian player Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento), internationally acclaimed as the best soccer player of all time. During his 18-year career in Brazil, Pelé scored more than 1 200 goals. Today, Brazilians Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Rivaldo are among the world's greatest players.

Volleyball is a very popular sport for both men and women. A women's team won the World Cup in 1991 and a men's team won the Gold Medal at the Olympics in 1992. Brazil is regarded as one of the major forces in basketball with the women's team winning the 1994 World Championship in Sidney, Australia, and the men's team turning in impressive



performances at many Olympic games as well as twice winning the world men's championships.

Brazilians also enjoy tennis. In 1959 and the early 1960s Maria Ester Bueno won three Wimbledon championships. In 1987, a Brazilian team was classified in the First Division of the Davis Cup. Today, the country's major tennis revelation is Gustavo Kuerten, who won the French Open in 1997, 2000 and 2001. He is the first Brazilian ever to win a Grand Slam title. Guga was the number one player during most of the 2000 and 2001 season.

Ever since the late 1960s, when Emerson Fittipaldi started accumulating victories in Formula One car racing, the sport has grown rapidly in popularity. A number of other drivers emerged: Nelson Piquet who was the World Champion in 1981, 1983 and 1987, and Ayrton Senna, who won international championships in 1988, 1990 and 1991, but had a fatal accident in a Formula One race in Italy in 1994. Today the Brazilians Rubens Barrichello, Filipe Marsa and Ricardo Tonta are among the well-known Brazilian F1 racers.

Brazilians have distinguished themselves in rowing, sailing, judo, beach volleyball, marathon, track and field, and swimming in international competitions, with a few gold, silver, and bronze medals to their credit. Always anxious to take advantage of their country's extensive coast and warm climate, Brazilians are increasingly taking up new sporting events such as surfing, windsurfing and hang-gliding.

food



Each region of Brazil developed its own, very diverse cuisine – depending on its indigenous culture, the origin of settlers, colonists or slaves, proximity to rivers or the ocean, the rainfall and soil conditions.

Food

If there is one dish that typifies Brazilian cooking it is *feijoada*. In Rio de Janeiro, where it is especially popular, *feijoada* is a bean dish prepared with air-dried beef, smoked sausage, pig's ears and tails, garlic, and chilli peppers. It is customary to fill a soup plate with white rice and spoon *feijoada* on top. Over this is added pulverised cassava flour, a starch that thickens the sauce. The whole dish is garnished with collard greens and slices of oranges.

The cuisine from Bahia dates back to the time of slavery when the masters saved scraps from the table or leftovers from the previous day's meal to give to the slaves. Some slaves were allowed to fish and look for shrimp and clams. Remembering their cooking pot training from Africa, the women would put bits of ingredients together and add the milk of coconuts or the oil from the *dendê* palm. Over the years these concoctions were worked out in recipes and were given names. Today it is called



Bahian food. Some of its delicacies are:

Vatapá: Shrimps are either cut up or ground together with pieces of fish, then cooked with *dendê* palm oil, coconut milk and pieces of bread. The dish is served over white rice.

Acarajé: This is street food eaten before lunch or dinner as an appetiser, or at any time as a snack. It consists of a ball fried in palm oil with black-eye beans. It may or may not be left open and stuffed with *vatapá*. In Bahia it is sold by women who are traditionally black-skinned, wearing regional dress consisting of a skirt, a decorated jacket, a super abundance of necklaces and bracelets and a turban, clothes that were stylised and immortalised for the outside world by the Brazilian actress, Carmen Miranda.

In the Amazon region a favourite dish is *pato no tucupi* which contains pieces of duck in a rich sauce loaded with a wild green herb that tingles the stomach for hours after eating. Another typical dish is *tacacá*: a thick, yellow soup laced with dried shrimp and garlic.

In Rio Grande do Sul the *churrasco* is a favourite dish. It consists of beef skewered onto a metal sword, and roasted outdoors over hot coals. There is a tomato and onion sauce to go over it. The *gaúchos* of the interior barbecue an entire steer this way.

Drink

Many international travellers think Brazilian beer is one of the best in the entire Western Hemisphere. For generations there have been expert German and Dutch brewers overseeing the manufacturing and processing of all major companies.

Brazil produces a powerful, clear, raw rum (*cachaça*) made from fermented sugar cane alcohol. *Cachaça* combined with crushed lime, sugar and ice becomes a very popular drink called *caipirinha*.

Guaraná, a delicious soft drink unique to Brazil, is made out of a fruit from the Amazon. Because of the high content of caffeine in the fruit, it may be found more and more in the formulas of most of the popular energy and sports drinks all over the world.



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