

O BRASIL / EL BRASIL / BRAZIL



- NAME:** República Federativa do Brasil
The generally accepted etymology of the name is the "brazilwood" tree because of the reddish color of its wood, which color reminded the first Portuguese explorers of reddish embers (> Port. *brasil*). The Tupi people of the pre-Columbian region of Brazil called their land *ibirapitanga* ('red wood').
- POPULATION:** 193,000,000 (2011)
- ETHNIC GROUPS:** Mulatto (38%); African (6%); European origin (55%); Amerindian (0.5%)
- CAPITAL:** Brasilia (1,500,000)
Other major cities: Rio de Janeiro (6,100,000); São Paulo (23,000,000); Salvador da Bahia (2,700,000); Belo Horizonte (2,400,000)
- LANGUAGES:** Portuguese (official)
- RELIGION:** Roman Catholic (73%); Protestant (15%); other (12%)
- LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 1997: men, 57; women, 67; 2007: men, 68; women 76
- LITERACY:** 1997, 83%; 2007, 88%
- GOVERNMENT:** democratic federal republic; representative democracy;
26 states; 1 federal district (Brasília)
President: Dilma Rousseff
- MILITARY:** 295,000 active troops
- ECONOMY:** steel, autos, textiles, shoes, chemicals, gems, computers, coffee, beef, minerals, petroleum
- MONEY:** real (BRL). 1997: 1.1 BRL = \$1.00US; 2007: \$1.00 US = 2.2 BRL
- GEOGRAPHY:** largest country in all Western Hemisphere; Atlantic coast;
Amazon region known as the Earth's lungs
- HISTORY:**
31,000-10,000 B.C. NE Brazil: cave paintings, fireplaces, tools (perhaps as early as 43,000 B.C.)

	Thinly settled with hunter-gathering peoples
1492	Vicente Yáñez Pinzón (with Colón in 1492) discovered Río Marañón, later called the Río Amazonas
1500	Discovered by Pedro Alvares Cabral and claimed by Portugal
1501	Amerigo Vespucci visited Brazil
1502	Jan. 1: Vespucci found Rio de Janeiro
1532	First permanent Portuguese settlements
1549-1763	Bahia made first colonial capital (Tomé de Souza)
1554	São Paulo founded
1567	Rio de Janeiro founded
1693	Gold found in Ouro Preto in the province of Minas Gerais: beginning of <i>bandeirantes</i> (adventurers, gold seekers).
1730-1814	(alternate birth, 1738) Aleijadinho (Antônio Francisco Lisboa), genius baroque sculptor and architect, especially in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais.
1758	Jesuits expelled from Brazil
1763	Capital moved from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro
1807	João VI moves Portuguese monarchy from Portugal to Brazil making Brazil a kingdom
1821	João VI returns to Portugal and leaves Brazilian government to son Pedro I
1822	Sept. 7: Pedro I declares Brazilian independence and turns Brazil into an empire
1822-1831	Emperor Pedro I ruler
1824	New Constitution
1831-1840	Regency for Pedro II
1840-1889	Pedro II king of Brazil
1852	Pedro II helped overthrow dictator Rosas of Argentina
1864-1870	Pedro II waged successful war against dictator Solano López of Paraguay
1870-1888	Slaves emancipated
1889	Brazil becomes republic Brazil renamed: United States of Brazil
1889-1890	Military Dictatorship
1891	New Constitution
1891-1893	Chaotic governments: Marshals Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca, Floriano Peixoto
1894-1898	President Prudente Moraes Barros (republican)
1897	Civil War in Northeast lead by Antônio Conselheiro
1902-1906	Pres. Paulo Rodrigues Alves transformed Rio de Janeiro into major city
1930-1945	Getulio Vargas, autocratic president: dictatorial powers by new constitution
1940	Pelé (Edison Arantes do Nascimento) was born: he has been rated as the greatest footballer (soccer player) of all time, and

he was named Athlete of the Century by the International Olympic Committee.



- 1942-1945 Brazil fought in World War II: battle of Monte Cassino
- 1950-1954 Vargas elected president again (suicide 1954)
- 1955-1961 Juscelino Kubitschek, president
- 1960 Capital moved from Rio de Janeiro to Brasília
- 1960-1961 President Janio Quadros resigns (mayor of São Paulo 1985-)
- 1961-1964 President João Belchoir Marques Goulart (Goulart) overthrown by military coup
- 1964-1985 Military dictatorship (Gen. João Baptista Figueiredo until 1985)
Dictatorships carried out torture and assassinations against what it saw as leftist subversives
- 1967 Brazil renamed República Federativa do Brasil
- 1970 Brazil had become largest economic power in Latin America
- 1985 Return to democracy with interim presidency of José Sarney and bicameral congress
After Tancredo Neves died shortly after being elected by Electoral College
- 1988 Interim presidency of Sarney extended until 1990
- 1989 Fernando Collor de Mello elected president
- 1992 Brazil restructured its massive foreign debt
Collor de Mello indicted for corruption
Itamar Franco (former VP) new president
Brazil hosted Earth Summit on international environmental concerns
- 1994 Fernando Henrique Cardoso elected president (sociology professor; neoliberal)
- 1998-2003 Cardoso re-elected as president.
- 2003-2011 Jan. 1; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva elected president: campaign for social and economic changes.
- 2007-2011 Petrobras discovered the Tupi oil field, one of the largest oil and natural gas field in the world (in the Atlantic near Rio de Janeiro), raising Brazil's petroleum reserves by 62%.
- 2008 Petrobras announced the discovery of another huge oil field, Jupiter. The Jupiter field is located nearly 17,000 ft below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, again, near Rio de Janeiro.

2011–2015 Dilma Vana Rousseff (b. 1947-present; daughter of Bulgarian entrepreneur and Brazilian school teacher mother) succeeds Lula da Silva as 36th president of Brazil and first woman president; 1964-1970 she was active in urban resistance groups fighting against the military dictatorship (see 1964-1985 above); from 1970 to 1972 she was jailed and tortured by various members of the military; by profession she is an economist; she graduated from Rio Grande do Sul University in 1977; later she took doctoral level courses in economics; from 1979 to the present she has been active in progressive politics; her party is the Workers Party; she has one child with her partner Carlos Araújo.



2014 Dilma Rousseff re-elected president for new four-year term.

2016 (May) President Rousseff suspended from presidency for six months while Senate debates impeachment proceedings against her due to criminal charges of corruption. Vice President Michel Temer becomes Acting President of Brazil.

(August 5 to August 21) Brazil hosted the “Games of the XXXI Olympiad” (popularly known as “Rio 2016”).

(August 31): The Brazilian Senate removed Dilma Rousseff from office (61-20) after finding her guilty of breaking Brazilian budgetary laws (i.e., “fiscal peddling” involving illegal funds of Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil company).

Simultaneously, Michel Temer (b. 1940), a center-right politician (with his own cloud of suspected illegalities to face), assumed the office of president.

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MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES and POWER BLOCKS:

Workers Party
Social Democratic Party
Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro
Democratic Labor Party
Brazilian Labor Party
Brazilian Communist Party
Military

PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA:

Euclides da Cunha, *Os Sertões* (1905)
Jorge Amado (1916-present), novelist from Bahia: *Tocaia Grande* ;
Gabriela, *Cravo e Canela* (1958)
Leonardo Boff, theologian of liberation theology: *Vida para além da morte* (1973)
Clarice Lispector (1921-77), *The Hour of the Star*
Nélida Piñon, *A República dos Sonhos* (1984)
Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (1838-1908), novelist
Mário de Andrade (1893-1945), *Macunaima* (1938)