

Wed Oct 7, Politics class notes, Brazil day 1, history and culture (Sections 1 and 5)

Section 1: The Making of the Modern Brazilian State

- Why does the text call Brazil “a country of contradictions” and “a fragmented society”?
 - Back-and-forth between centralization and federalism
 - Fast-growing economy, but huge income and well-being disparities
- Rich in farmlands and natural resources
- Ethnically diverse (chart on p. 417), large immigrant population, and generally Catholic

Critical Junctures in Brazilian History

- Constitutional Monarchy: 1822-1889
 - Following 300 years of Portuguese colonial rule, Portuguese prince Dom Pedro declares Brazilian independence and forms the only constitutional monarchy in the Americas
 - Centralization of power in the monarchy
- The Old Republic: 1889-1930
 - Rise of the landed oligarchy and abolition of slavery
 - § Demand for slaves reduced as the coffee economy grew (relative to sugar)
 - Why is this period known as the rule of *café com leite* (“coffee with milk”)?
 - Decentralization of power to the states (fostered **coronelismo** and **clientelism**)
- The 1930 Revolution
 - The October 1930 coup and the rise of Getúlio Vargas
 - Return to political centralization (Vargas replaced governors with handpicked allies)
 - **State corporatism** (“rejects the idea of competition among social groups by having the state arbitrate all conflicts”)
 - The **New State** under Vargas: labor codes, public firms, paternalist welfare policies
- The Populist Republic (1945-1964)
 - Vargas eventually gave in to democratic pressures, but the following republic was **populist** in that the political elites “sought to expand citizenship to previously disenfranchised sectors of society in return for political support.”
 - Vargas elected again in 1950; succeeded by Juscelino Kubitschek, best known for promoting a grand nationalist agenda in big public projects like the building of Brasília
- Bureaucratic Authoritarianism (1964-1985)
 - Military government promoted **state-led development**
- **Abertura** (1974-1985) culminates in the inauguration of José Sarney
- Current Democracy in Brazil (1985-present)
 - Fernando Henrique Cardoso (pres. 1994-2002) – implemented Real Plan to control inflation as minister of finance
 - Lula da Silva elected in October 2002 and again in 2006 with 60 percent of the vote
- Ongoing problems in Brazilian politics
 - **Personalist politicians**
 - Lack of public trust in the government specifically and democracy in general
 - Highly centralized executive but highly decentralist state/municipality system
 - Patriarchy and extreme social inequality

Section 5: Brazilian Politics in Transition

- How has Lula (and the PT) changed over the last two decades in which he ran for president?
 - From traditional unionist concerns to ‘capitalism with a human face’
 - Current strategy: “mixture of modest social reform with a sustained commitment to fiscal probity and open markets” (pretty much the same as Cardoso’s strategy)
- Ongoing problems: “The weakness of the judiciary, human rights violations by police and security forces, and the tendency to vigilantism and class conflict in poor, rural areas reinforce the anemia of a civil society that increasingly discounts its role in politics.”
- Lack of accountability in politics
- Success of the *Bolsa Família* (discussed in section 2, which we’re skipping)

Videos on Brazil

- On the 'favelas', or slums of Rio de Janeiro:
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2311857047701523130&ei=WujESp3GIMrslAeLxfXZBg&q=brazil#>
- Documentary on Brazilian Slavery (part 1): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9P8ga-0EyQ>
- Al Jazeera clip on race and racism in Brazil: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBNUOsrIiAs&feature=fvw>
- FRONTLINE piece on Brazilian mining: <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/brazil501/>
- FRONTLINE piece on agricultural land ownership: http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2005/12/brazil_cutting.html
- Lula at Davos in 2003 (World Economic Forum) -- this is the passage the opening of the ICP book
references: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQIrI6865IE&feature=PlayList&p=00D66A2FAB4DD9FD&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=6
- And again in 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WDeP0Yx7QE>

Brazil Links and Resources

- [map of vegetation](#)
- The *Economist's* Brazil
portal: <http://www.economist.com/countries/Brazil/index.cfm>
- Library of Congress info on Brazil: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/brtoc.html>