

A stylized map of the Americas, showing North and South America in white against a dark background. The map is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text.

XXVII

Summit of the Americas

Virtual Summit

**Cabinet of Brazil
2018**

Committee Bulletin

Will Shrepferman, Chair

Juan C. Venancio, Director of English Committees



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Welcome to HACIA XXVII

Dear delegates of the XXVIIth HACIA Democracy,

It is my pleasure to be the first to welcome you to HACIA's virtual summit for the twenty-seventh meeting of HACIA Democracy. My name is Juan C. Venancio and as the Director of English Committees at HACIA XXVII, it is my job to ensure that all of you have a rewarding experience in committee while substantively debating a series of intriguing topics endemic to Latin-America.

My interest in HACIA and Latin America stems from my own Mexican and Honduran heritage. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, I grew up in a predominantly Latin-American ethnic enclave, and this upbringing has driven my personal interests in government, economics, and law. It was through these influences that I developed a natural passion for the region, having participated in organizations like Model United Nations, since my time in high school. As is the case for many, conferences like Model UN allowed me to explore several world issues, contemporary political struggles, and engage with potential solutions with other brilliant minds throughout the country. Now, as a junior at Harvard, I have continued to explore these interests through my previous participation in HACIA, Harvard's Institute of Politics, and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin-American Studies.

At last year's HACIA, I co-directed the 1948 Costa Crisis Cabinet and was amazed by the talent that HACIA attracts every year. This year, I have worked with our talented team of committee directors to select a thematically and temporally diverse set of committees, ranging from the internal displacement of citizens in El Salvador, to women's rights through the OAS, and even current public health issues across the Latin-American region.

HACIA is unique because the issues that we discuss are diverse, well-researched, and relevant. Not only that, but all of you, as delegates, derive from a diverse set of countries, schools, and backgrounds, which all serve to provide multiple perspectives on these hot topics. This highly social type of group learning is an invaluable skill to refine, especially in the context of increased socio-political, environmental, and public health dilemmas. As a result, I would like to encourage all of you to come to this year's conference with unique ideas, well-researched arguments, and out-of-the-box proposals throughout the course of the conference.

In conclusion, I can't wait for our conference to begin and to meet all of you in March! I'm also looking forward to the productive conversations that we will facilitate over the course of our conference.

Sincerely,

Juan C. Venancio, Director of English Committees english_committees@hacia-democracy.org

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From your Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Will Shrepferman, and I will be serving as the President of Brazil and director of the Cabinet of Brazil, 2018. In this cabinet, we will explore the convoluted issues facing Brazil, including health crises, water shortages, corruption, and this year's presidential elections. Throughout the committee, we will be introduced to the difficulties of multiparty presidential systems and many of the concerns facing emerging nations. So that we may best work together during the conference, however, let me first tell you a little more about myself.

I am currently a sophomore at Harvard College, originally from the small town of Zionsville, Indiana (if you're not familiar with US geography, it's a cornfield about 3 hours south of the city of Chicago). At Harvard, I'm studying Government with a focus in Data Science. I am also an avid follower of international relations and love Model UN, directing in both our high school conference (HMUN) and our college conference (HNMUN), both held in Boston; additionally, I compete on the US national circuit with Harvard's travelling team (ICMUN).

With regards to HACIA XVII in particular, I would like to emphasize the educational goals of this conference. I want each of you to come out of this committee with more knowledge about the current situation in Brazil and its implications on the rest of Latin America and around the world. Beyond substantive excellence, I hope that by participating in this committee you will further develop crucial life skills such as the arts of communication and persuasion, as well as clear writing and public speaking.

As this is a crisis committee involving Brazilian politics, I strongly expect there will be much scheming and politicking throughout committee sessions. However, I would like to emphasize that this should never trump substantive excellence and respect for other delegates. Furthermore, I believe that active participation and collaboration in committee tends to be the most rewarding experience in HACIA. The topics we will be discussing are very real and impact the day-to-day lives of many Brazilians and citizens around the globe. I aspire to run a committee where we are able to learn more about these problems and propose innovative solutions to attempt to solve or mitigate them, as well as to be in an environment where we are all learning and evolving, while having a lot of fun. In truth, my primary goal is to make HACIA XVII one of, if not the, best and most fun conferences you have ever attended. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at my email.

Will Schrepferman
Chair, The Presidential Cabinet of Brazil, 2018
willschrepferman@college.harvard.edu

Topic:

Cabinet of Brazil 2018

Introduction

Ministers, welcome to the Presidential Cabinet of Brazil. Two years ago, President Dilma Rousseff was impeached, ending the Worker's Party (PT) control of the presidency after nearly 14 years. Her vice-president, Michael Temer, of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) assumed power and is now the president of Brazil and leader of your multiparty cabinet. Under Temer's leadership, you have been working to solve the myriad of problems facing Brazil, from corruption and economic insecurity to environmental issues. In the cabinet of 2018, you will have to continue day-to-day administration of the country while working on these larger issues. Simultaneously, you must keep in mind that 2018 is an election year, and one that will likely determine Brazil's future for years to come.

Temer has announced he will not run for reelection. In previous years, his party, the PMDB, would ally itself with either the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) or the PT. However, the PMDB has confirmed that in 2018 they will launch their own presidential candidate. With many members of the PSDB also in Temer's cabinet, the ministers must find a balance between cooperating to ensure Brazil is properly governed and finding ways to support their parties' candidates.

To make matters even more complicated, the cabinet has a total of nine parties represented (the PP, PSDB, PSD, DEM, PPS, PRB, PV, PR, PMDB), and presidential bids from two other politicians whose parties are not in the current governing coalition have been announced. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (better known as Lula), a former two-term president of Brazil, will run representing the PT. Despite many investigations into his involvement in the Lava Jato Operation, he has performed consistently well in the polls. In addition, Jair Bolsonaro, of the Social Christian Party (PSC), is quickly gaining support with right-leaning voters.

The 2018 elections will prove to be one of the most important elections since Brazil's re-democratization in 1985, as it is an opportunity for many new politicians to rise to the occasion and capitalize on the population's increasing frustration with the establishment. As this committee spans the year leading up to the election, the presidential cabinet will play an important role during the election cycle. Where will this election take Latin America's largest economy? Who will inspire and conquer the hearts of the Brazilian population?

The elections serve as an important decision that will guide not only the future of Brazil, but also of Mercosul, a regional bloc created in 1991 with the purpose of economically and socially integrating its members, Mercosur and other major Latin American countries. Brazil's stability affects the rest of the world, as this nation is the world's eighth largest economy, one of the global market's largest economies and provides it with an enormous supply of important commodities and other exports.

While political scheming and compromise are of utmost importance to the upcoming elections, ministers cannot neglect Brazil's current fragile state and still have the responsibility of governing the country until its future is decided later this year. The population still strongly distrusts its government due to rampant corruption by nearly all major parties in the country. In order to regain their confidence, the ministers must find a way to accelerate the nation's economic growth, while being careful not to interfere too heavily in the economy and provoking another recession. Furthermore, many regions of Brazil have experienced droughts in the recent years and some of them, including the capital city of Brasilia, are undergoing water rationing, further increasing public unrest

The current governance of Brazil will also be in the minds of Brazilians as they decide how to cast their votes and, if the current government wants to have any chance of staying in power, it must provide significant contributions to mitigate the public's top three issues: health, education, and crime. Public health is a major concern, especially after outbreaks of the Zika Virus, Dengue Fever, and, most recently, Yellow Fever. Public

hospitals are almost always full of patients and extremely understaffed. Additionally, Brazilians have grown tired of low quality education and limited educational opportunities for their children. The educational system in the country requires significant overhaul in order to produce tangible improvements and to act as the basis for a better future. Finally, the streets of the country grow ever more dangerous and violent, as criminals riot and at times escape from prisons due to rampant overcrowding. Governing such a vast and diverse country is no easy feat and only time will tell if you, the cabinet, are up for this challenge.

Key Terms

Parties:

- PMDB: Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party)
- PSDB: Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira (Brazilian Social Democracy Party)
- PT: Partido dos Trabalhadores (Workers' Party)
- PSD: Partido Social Democrático (Social Democratic Party)
- DEM: Democratas (Democrats)
- PP: Partido Progressista (Progressive Party)
- PPS: Partido Popular Socialista (Socialist Popular Party)

- PRB: Partido Republicano Brasileiro (Brazilian Republican Party)
- PV: Partido Verde (Green Party)
- PR: Partido da República: Party of the Republic
- PDT: Partido Democrático Trabalhista (Democratic Labor Party)
- PC: Partido Comunista (Communist Party)
- PCdoB: Partido Comunista do Brasil (Brazilian Communist Party)
- PSC: Partido Social Cristão (Social Christian Party)
- PSB: Partido Socialista Brasileiro (Brazilian Socialist Party)

Key People:

- Michael Temer (PMDB): President (2016 –)
- Dilma Rousseff (PT): Former President (2011– 2016)

- Lula (PT): Potential Candidate for 2018 Presidential Elections for the PT, Former President (2003 – 2011)
- Geraldo Alckmin (PSDB): Potential Candidate for 2018 Presidential Elections for the PSDB, Governor of São Paulo (2001 – 2006, 2011 –)
- Jair Bolsonaro (PSC): Potential Candidate for 2018 Presidential Elections for the PSC, Congressperson (1991 –)
- Romero Jucá (PMDB): Leader of the PMDB
- (See a list of cabinet members in the update papers)

History of the Cabinet

Over the last several presidencies, the number of ministries in the Presidential Cabinet has steadily increased. During Fernando Collor's short presidency (1990 – 1992), there were 17 ministers. During Dilma Rousseff's first government (2010 – 2014), however, that number reached 39 ministers. In her second mandate, the former president cut down on ministries, lowering the total to 32, as a symbolic gesture to indicate her commitment in reducing federal spending. Upon replacing her in office, President Michael Temer further cut the number of ministries, so that he currently has 27 ministers.

There was public outcry when Temer announced his reductions, as many Brazilians expected him to reduce his cabinet below 27. During Dilma's impeachment process, Temer had stated he would likely slash the

cabinet size to 22 ministries if he were to become president. Many point to the size of the US cabinet, which has 15 ministries, and argue Brazil should be able to further reduce its own number to something at least closer to that of the United States. Although reducing the number of ministries does not lead to a significant federal budget reduction, as the total cost of these is just over one percent of the budget, the size of the Brazilian cabinet relative to other executive cabinets has strong symbolism.

ADD PICTURE: TEMER'S CABINET

One of the reasons this cabinet is so large is that there are 35 political parties in Brazil. Of these, ten have been created since 2005. Due to the sheer volume of parties, the president oftentimes must “auction off” different cabinet positions to major party leaders in exchange for gaining that party’s support in the governing coalition. As the number of parties increased, so did cabinet sizes, as presidents needed more positions to negotiate with in order to have the support of enough parties to govern. For this reason, many Brazilians are opposed to the large cabinet size: they view it as an immoral excuse to help presidents gain political support.

At this point, one might wonder why Brazil has so many political parties in the first place. Some of them were formed from differing political ideologies. For example, when the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) was internally reformed and became the Popular Socialist Party, a few members of the party opposed the change and decided to reestablish the PCB. Others were formed mostly due to political maneuvers. The Republican Party of the Social Order (PROS), for instance, was created when two brothers, Cid and Ciro Gomes, wanted to break Brazilian Socialist Party line and support Dilma’s reelection in 2014, ensuring her voters in Cid Gomes’ state of Ceará would continue to support the two brothers. The new party formation led to further political gain when, after Dilma’s reelection, she nominated Cid as Minister of Education.

Even though ministries may be created for political purposes, each minister does serve a unique role in the governance of Brazil. Each minister in the cabinet is responsible for leading an organ of the federal government, controlling the day-to-day functions of their ministries and collaborating with the president on

long-term plans to achieve the goals and campaign promises the president has set or made. The president can replace any minister at any time and can also appoint a minister without the necessity of approval from Congress. The only constitutional requirements for being selected as a minister is that he or she is born with Brazilian citizenship, is over 21 years old, and can exercise his or her political rights.

An Overview on Committee Procedure

This committee will be run much like the actual cabinet. I, Will, will act as the president during committee. I will do my best to impersonate him and his style. The exceptions to this are that I will use HACIA parliamentary procedure and will not be partisan with regards to parties in the cabinet. That is, I will not express my (the president's) opinions about any of the parties that are represented in my government. I will, however, oppose the parties that are outside our coalition and are running against the parties in this government.

As in the actual cabinet, each minister has substantial individual powers. Not only do these ministers have the powers of their respective ministries, but many also have substantial personal powers, wealth, and connections. Delegates will be expected to use this both for their individual advantage and to help mold committee and push it forward. The only exception to this is ministerial or other budgets. No individual delegate has the power to unilaterally alter their own or any other ministry's budgets. This must be done through a directive in committee. You will be provided with biographies/portfolio powers of the members of the cabinet in an update paper in the months leading up to committee, but you may do initial research on your own if you wish.

I want you to be active in crisis and take charge of shaping the debate of the cabinet both inside the committee room and through crisis. If you have a question about whether something should be done through crisis or the committee, please do not hesitate to send crisis a note with what you are proposing. If it needs to be done through committee, crisis will let you know. We want delegates to be as creative as possible but will be

working to strike a balance between your imagination and reality. When in doubt, be creative and use your imagination. If something is not feasible, crisis will let you know and ask you to revise your plan. **Always try or ask for help if you are unsure of what you are and are not allowed to do.** This will ensure that you get the most from committee and that you contribute fully in debate.

We want delegates to be especially active in crisis with regards to garnering the support of different parties for their presidential candidates. There are nine parties represented in the cabinet so you are encouraged to collaborate with other delegates through joint crisis notes and directives to ensure every party in the cabinet is involved in the presidential election. Also feel free to reach out to other parties not represented in the cabinet through crisis. Our goal is for you to make deals regarding the election while tying in other topics debated in committee. For example, in exchange for support in the elections, a delegate may favor prioritizing another delegate's state over other states. With your imagination and skills, we hope to improve Brazil and have the most engaging committee in which you have ever participated.

History of the Committee

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Topic in Context

The Beginning of Modern Brazil

Brazil was first discovered by the Portuguese during the holiday of Easter in the year 1500, when Pedro Alvares Cabral and his ships landed on Monte Pascoal (The Hill of Easter) on the coast of Bahia. However, the Portuguese did not have much interest in colonizing the nation at first. They had not identified any precious metals and, with more lucrative investments in their Indian colonies, the Portuguese Crown postponed creating a settlement in Brazil until 1532. This was after they discovered the potential of expanding their influence by converting the indigenous populations to Catholicism. In addition, they settled the coast to prevent their European rivals from gaining access to the land.

After settlement, colonization focused on extraction, not development. Unlike colonies in North America, Brazil has a very different climate from Europe, and many parasites and other tropical challenges made it difficult and initially not worthwhile to create a settlement. Instead, this colonization model focused on maximum extraction from the land and the exportation of goods to the metropolis—in this case, Portugal. One such resource was Pau-Brasil, a tree that inhabited the coast of Brazil and could be used to dye clothes. It became popular in Europe and exports of the tree significantly ramped up throughout the 18th century until it nearly became extinct.

With the shortage of Pau-Brasil, the Portuguese began to search further inland for other precious materials. At the same time, they noticed that the climate in the nation was ideal for planting crops that could not grow in Europe. Thus, with the depletion of natural resources, Brazil's economy shifted to become largely based on commodities and agriculture. The first major crop to dominate the economy was sugar cane.

The “Sugar Cane Cycle” occurred mostly between the 16th and 18th centuries and was one of the first motivators for the mass population of the colony. Sugar was a rarity in Europe and was only beginning

to be grown in other markets. The shortage of supply but high demand made this a very lucrative operation for the Portuguese. Furthermore, they already had expertise in cultivating sugar cane, as they had been doing so previously in the Portuguese island of Madeira. Sugar plantations began appearing along the coast, but such plantations required a large workforce. The Portuguese therefore attempted to enslave the native populations as laborers. However, enslaving natives was not effective, and many theories attempting to explain this have arisen. One such theory is that they had superior knowledge of the land and would frequently escape. Another is that the germs brought by Europeans, to which natives had not yet been exposed, increased their mortality rates to an extent that prevented the capture of natives from producing a long-term workforce. These difficulties led the Portuguese to try and then rely on another economic model: the African slave trade.

The rapid economic development of Brazil attracted attention from other European superpowers and, in 1630, the Dutch invaded Northeastern Brazil, taking control of most of the sugar cane production. They observed the techniques implemented in the local Brazilian plantations and began replicating them in their Caribbean colonies. Eventually, the Caribbean became the dominant producer of sugar cane and, even after Portugal regained control of its colony in 1654, it no longer had an absolute advantage in the production of this commodity.

The Portuguese turned to cotton as their next major crop. Cotton production in Brazil was mostly aimed at exportation, particularly to the British Empire, a close ally of Portugal at the time and throughout most of Brazil's history. Both cotton and sugar cane production required large plantations and slave labor, which concentrated the wealth among the nobility and caused a deep socioeconomic divide. These divides are still seen in the country today, as a large portion of land is still concentrated in the hands of a small group of landowners. The economic cycle catalyzed by cotton lasted throughout the 18th to the 19th centuries.

During this period, Napoleon Bonaparte, ruler of France, gained influence in Europe, conquering countries as he went. As Spain fell to his might, the Portuguese Crown was unsure of what to do. If

they surrendered to the French, they would be betraying their British allies, but they did not have an army nearly as prepared as Napoleon's. Great Britain and Portugal therefore reached an agreement: the British would escort the Portuguese Crown to safety, far from the war in Europe. In 1808, the royal family moved to Brazil. This was the first time a European monarch would be living in a colony, and this historic change drastically altered Brazil's status as a colony. It became the hub of Portuguese power and, with the royal family, an inflow of new policies and resources also abounded. Brazil's ports were opened to other nations, whereas before, they were more tightly controlled by Portugal. The Royal family created the Bank of Brazil, national academies and institutes for higher learning, and a royal library.

When the royal family returned to Portugal, many were afraid these changes would be undone and Brazil would lose what it had recently acquired. So, in 1822, after most of the royal family had already returned to Lisbon, the heir to the Portuguese throne Dom. Pedro I declared Brazil's independence. The nation's independence was relatively unique from most other Latin American nations, as it was declared by a member of the royal family. Not only did Brazil continue to have close ties with Portugal, but it also did not immediately become a democracy. Instead, Dom. Pedro I became emperor of Brazil. He was succeeded by his son, who ruled until 1889, when Brazil was declared a republic. The decision to transition from a monarchy to a republic was mostly made by the wealthiest class, the military, and religious authorities. Two of the main causes of the elite's withdrawal of political support for the Brazilian royal family was the abolition of slavery in 1888, which was authorized by Princess Isabel, and the Paraguay War, from 1864 to 1870, which increased the military's influence over the government.

Brazil had a rocky start as a republic. Its first two presidents were affiliated with the military. After them, the regional parties of the states of Minas Gerais and São Paulo came to an agreement in which the two states would alternate the presidency. This alliance, known as the "política de café-com-leite" (the coffee with milk policy) lasted from 1894 to 1930. This period is known as the "Primeira República" (First Republic), and it

came to an end when the president at the time, Washington Luís, from São Paulo, decided to break the alliance and nominated Julio Prestes, another São Paulo politician, as his successor. Even though Prestes won the election, his opponent, Getúlio Vargas from Rio Grande do Sul, allied with the discontented politicians from Minas Gerais to stage a coup and take over the country. Ultimately successful, Vargas was president until 1945.

As president, Vargas was popular amongst the lower classes and was known as the “father of the poor.” He instituted a series of reforms in the country, including establishing the National Council of Petroleum, the Companhia Siderúrgica Nacional (National Steel Company), the Ministry of Labor, and a series of labor laws. One of these laws was the Consolidação das Leis do Trabalho (Consolidation of the Labor Laws), which is believed to have been based on Mussolini’s labor laws in Italy. Vargas did this to gain greater control over the labor force and unions. This law has been the ruling labor law through to the present, when a labor reform was proposed by President Temer.

ADD PICTURE: Getulio VARGAS

Brazil During the Military Government

After Vargas, the period known as the “Segunda República” (Second Republic) began, lasting from 1945 until the military coup of 1964. This was a short period of democracy that started with four presidents, two of whom did not finish their terms. The fifth president, and third to end his term early, João Goulart, came to power when the previous president, Jânio Quadros, for who Goulart served as Vice-President, resigned after political pressures to do so following allegations of his involvement with communism. Goulart assumed control of the country at a very turbulent time. Political tensions in Brazil were high, as many nations in Latin America flirted with communism. The United States, especially the CIA, members of the Brazilian military, and many Brazilian citizens worried that Goulart might ally himself with communist parties and other communist nations to attempt to maintain himself in power.

In addition to this political crisis, the cost of living in Brazil had skyrocketed over the previous few years, upsetting the middle class. The middle class also feared that establishing communism in Brazil would limit their possibility of rising in socioeconomic status and so, in general, opposed communism over the capitalist government structure at the time. Thus, they worried about Goulart's potentially communist reforms. The wealthiest Brazilians agreed with this concern, especially after Goulart announced that he wanted to institute a series of reforms, such as one pertaining to the agrarian system, which has a high wealth concentration in Brazil. Finally, the Catholic church, which was a very influential institution in the country at the time and, to this day, is still quite relevant in most Catholic-majority countries in Latin America, had advocated against communists, and hence opposed Goulart's government. With the build-up of anti-Goulart sentiment coming from middle and upper-class Brazilians, the Catholic Church, and the anti-Communist CIA, confrontation was unavoidable. On March 31st, with covert assistance from the CIA, the Brazilian military was able to depose Goulart; they ran the country for the next 21 years, until 1985.

The first military president was General Humberto Castelo Branco, who was considered one of the more moderate generals. Despite being considered one of the military's "soft-liners", Castelo Branco removed many congresspersons from office during his presidency. The electoral system also changed. Under the new system, state governors and the president were elected indirectly; that is, the population would elect Congress and the Congresspersons then elected the governors and president. In addition, all old political parties were disbanded, replaced with only two new ones: the National Renewal Alliance (ARENA), which supported the military government, and the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), which united most opposition parties and served as the roots of the PMDB. Strikes were also prohibited and the federal government started to incentivize foreign investment in the nation.

Castelo Branco's successor, Artur da Costa e Silva, was seen as a more radical, "hardliner" president. Costa e Silva cracked down on any opposition against the military government. At the time, most

citizens believed the military government would be temporary, serving as a transition to a more stable government with stronger democratic institutions. Costa e Silva, however, justified extending military control with the argument that the country was still highly unstable and could return to the chaos of Goulart's government without the military's strong hand. It was during this period that civilian opposition groups began forming.

Although the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) had been abolished, the network of extreme leftists was still active in the country and organized various opposition movements. They defended the "luta armada" (armed opposition), advocating for civilians to fight against the military government. Most of this opposition was done peacefully, as was the case with the many protests and demonstrations organized by student groups in universities that formed to oppose Costa e Silva's government. However, leftist urban guerillas began to operate in large cities, attempting to provoke a military crackdown. Indeed, Costa e Silva did respond harshly, suspending many democratic liberties and constitutional rights, allowing the police to investigate and imprison citizens without warrants or court orders. With this, the government infringed on many Brazilian's human rights as the guerillas had hoped, which pushed the general population to more strongly oppose the military government.

After suffering from a stroke, Costa e Silva left the presidency and was succeeded by Emílio Garrastazu Médici. Médici's government is seen as one of the most politically stable governments in the military regime, but it is also considered one of the worst periods of repression in Brazil's recent history. Médici created a series of departments and organizations aimed at quashing opposition and repressing popular movements against his government. He specifically increased the military presence in cities to combat the leftist guerillas groups who were raiding banks, kidnapping foreign diplomats, and carrying out terrorist attacks against the government. One of these guerilla groups was the Vanguarda Armada Revolucionario (the Revolutionary Armed Guard), one of which's members was Dilma Rousseff, who would later become more relevant on the

national political stage. Most of the members of these guerrillas were exiled, captured, killed, or tortured. Under Médici's government, many political prisoners were tortured and mistreated.

Despite the humanitarian concern, Médici's government was quite stable. This political stability led to economic stability, and Brazil's economy grew at an unprecedented rate. The period from 1969 to 1973, nearly all of Médici's mandate, was known as the "Milagre Econômico" (Economic Miracle), due to Brazil's double-digit GDP growth.

Foreign investments drove growth in the country's economy, and low oil prices ensured industrial demand could be met. During the Economic Miracle, levels of unemployment were extremely low and the government created a series of infrastructure projects around the country, building highways, bridges, and hydroelectric dams. Unfortunately, the economic growth was not evenly distributed and contributed, to some extent, to worsening socioeconomic inequality. When the 1973 oil crisis caused a recession in developed economies, however, Brazil's growth slowed.

Ernesto Geisel served as the fourth military president of the dictatorship. He began his presidency by promising a gradual return to democracy. He instituted a series of reforms that paved the path to a new democracy, suspending, for example, the government censorship of the media and arts. A hardliner branch of the military opposed Geisel's proposition to open political discourse, but a series of suspected murders consolidated popular support strongly against the hard-liners, allowing President Geisel started to discharge the radical members of the army. In addition to internal quarrels, the global petroleum crisis had also caused the Brazilian economy to slow down, and many economic sectors started turning against the military government. The Catholic church began publicly opposing the military government, condemning the human rights violations. During the military government, the military allowed Congressional elections to continue, with a

official government party, ARENA, and an official opposition party, the MDB. With increasing opposition against the military government, the MDB won a record number of seats in Congress.

This led to the final military president, João Figueiredo. He authorized political amnesty, allowing political prisoners and exiles to be freed or return to the country. He also led a political reform. Again, a few military hardliners tried to prevent this progress. In 1981, for example, a radical sergeant and captain attempted to carry out a terrorist attack on a convention center in Rio de Janeiro, but their bomb exploded prematurely, causing the attack to fail.

With this, the more radical military leaders conceded defeat and the reforms continued. ARENA was disbanded, and the Social Democratic Party (PDS) took its place. The MDB transformed into the PMDB. In addition, two other parties, the Democratic Labor Party (PDT) and Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) were created. Communist parties were still illegal and so the Worker's Party (PT), led by former union leader Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, was formed to defend socialist ideals.

In 1982, governors were once again directly elected by Brazilians, and many opposition candidates won elections in the most populous states. In 1983, an opposition congressman proposed a constitutional amendment that would allow citizens to have a direct vote for the presidency, as during the military government presidents were chosen through indirect voting by Congress. The movement, which became known as “Diretas Já” (Direct Elections Now), gained enormous public attention, but the proposed constitutional amendment was eventually voted down, and the next president was still elected indirectly. However, this next president was Tancredo Neves, the oppositionist candidate of the PMDB, and once he was elected president, the military government came to an end.

Under the military government, many artists and academics were exiled to neighboring nations. In addition, most universities had organized opposition groups against the military regime. This meant that many members of the young generation of the time, which is now the generation most active in politics,

opposed the military government and were against the political right. This is one of the potential explanations why, for the past several years, most of Brazil's parties have had largely leftist ideologies when compared to the political spectrum of many other countries.

From the Military to Lula

The indirectly-elected president Tancredo Neves, of the PMDB, was a career politician and had been Vargas' Minister of Justice during his second tenure as president. Prior to becoming president, he held other prestigious offices, such as Director of the Banco do Brasil (Bank of Brazil). During the military period, Tancredo served as a Congressman opposing the military regime and, in 1983, he became the governor of the populous state of Minas Gerais. He subsequently decided to run for the presidency on the platform of halting the devaluation of the Brazilian currency, lowering the nation's foreign debt, and resolving the country's many agrarian issues. Tancredo won the presidency decisively, winning 480 votes in Congress, while his opponent, Paulo Maluf, won only 180. He was never inaugurated as president, however, as he fell ill, was hospitalized, and eventually passed away.

In Tancredo's place, Vice-President José Sarney of the PMDB assumed the presidency. Sarney was seen as an unpopular candidate. He had originally advocated in favor of the military dictatorship and even voted against the Diretas Já proposition, arguing in favor of maintaining indirect elections. Many current opponents of the Temer government draw connections between the two presidents – both were from the PMDB, both were elected vice presidents but took over the nation's highest office due to their running mates' incapability of maintaining their office, and both are fairly unpopular.

To rectify this image and turn public opinion in his favor, Sarney vowed to continue with Tancredo's campaign promises. He was faced with a nearly impossible feat, however, as the Brazilian economy

at this time was in shambles. Inflation and unemployment were extremely high and the country was drowning in foreign debt and poverty.

Sarney proposed the Plano Cruzado (Cruzado Plan) to control the economy and bring down inflation, which was reaching triple digits. This plan was led by Finance Minister Dílson Funaro, who instituted a series of major reforms. The main one, of which the plan derives its name, was the establishing of a new currency, the Cruzado, which would be substituted for the old currency, the Cruzeiro, as the latter was extremely undervalued due to hyperinflation. In addition, Sarney proposed two drastic actions: freezing the prices of merchandise and freezing salaries, readjusting the latter only when inflation rates reached certain thresholds. The plan was extremely controversial. Many investors and businesspersons, harmed by the price freezes, blamed the hyperinflation on the government's enormous budget and spending. This criticism is very similar to that suffered by Dilma Rousseff during the end of her term, as many attributed the rapid rise in inflation to her government's constant spending.

At first, the plan seemed to be working, as consumers would report on any price increases they saw in stores, making the Cruzado seem stable. However, products quickly ran out, causing several shortages. Additionally, rent prices skyrocketed and, as a result, inflation was back on the rise. Sarney attempted two other plans to contain inflation, but both also failed. When he left office in 1990, Brazil's economy was still in shambles.

During this period, a new constitution was written by members of Congress and the Senate to replace that of the military government. So, in 1988, a new constitution was drafted and came to effect. It remains Brazil's constitution to this day. It established more democratic principles, such as direct elections for positions in the executive branch, including the presidency, governorships, and mayorships, as well as in the legislative branch.

With the end of the Sarney presidency, the Brazilian people were finally able to democratically and directly elect their next president. His name was Fernando Collor, and he was one of the youngest presidents in the history of Brazil, taking office at the age of 40. His electoral opponent however, Lula, was slowly rising in national recognition and popularity, and would run again in future elections. Collor ran on the platform of modernizing the country and reducing the size of the government to cut costs. To do so, he instituted the Plano Collor (Collor Plan), which reduced the number of federal organs and employees, began a process of privatizing companies that were previously state-owned, rolled back on import tariffs, froze consumer prices and salaries, and suspended and, at times, even confiscated high value investments. As with the Plano Cruzado, at first it seemed like inflation was decreasing, but ultimately the level of unemployment rose while the quality of life and industrial production fell.

Therefore, in the second year of his presidency, Collor established the Plano Collor II, increasing interest rates to discourage spending, in addition to continuing to open the economy to foreign investments and imports. However, this plan also proved to be unsuccessful and, as Collor approached the end of the second year in his term, his personal situation worsened. Many members of his government were accused of taking state funds for themselves. At first, these accusations did not reach Collor but, in 1992, his own brother denounced a corruption scandal involving him and some of the leaders of his campaign. They were accused of accepting bribes and creating fake companies to attempt to conceal these illegal activities. Congress investigated the accusations and recommended that Collor be removed from office.

As he had not shown progress with the economy, the population turned against his favor and began advocating in favor of impeachment. To prevent losing his political rights for the next eight years, a consequence of being impeached, Collor resigned shortly before being found guilty of a crime of responsibility by the Senate, which served as grounds for impeachment. Despite Collor's resignation, the Senate continued

with impeachment proceedings and eventually impeached him, preventing him from running for office for the next eight years. In 2018, he now will serves as a Senator for the state of Alagoas.

Once again, a vice-president had to assume the nation's highest office. This time, his name was Itamar Franco, of the PMDB. Itamar had opposed the military government and was previously a member of the MDB. He served as a senator and later governor of the state of Minas Gerais. During Collor's impeachment process, Collor was temporarily removed from the presidency until the impeachment process could be decided by the senate. During this time, Itamar served as interim president. After Collor's final impeachment, Itamar became president in the end of 1992. He vowed to combat corruption and stabilize the Brazilian economy.

During Itamar's presidency, then Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso organized a group of exceptional Brazilian economists to propose a new economic plan aimed at stabilizing the economy. The result of this was the Plano Real (Real Plan). It proposed changing the currency of Brazil to the Real, but in a different manner from previous currency alteration attempts. The idea was to have both currencies in the market at the same time, using the necessary federal reserves to maintain the Real's price fixed with the US Dollar. The plan was ultimately successful and the Real became the new currency of the country. Hyperinflation was eradicated and inflation was brought down to more reasonable levels. The Brazilian economy was brought out of its long economic crisis.

With the economy stabilized, Itamar ended his presidency with high popularity ratings. The success of the Real Plan also shined a light on Cardoso, known popularly by his initials FHC. For the majority of his life, FHC was an academic, attending the highest ranked university in Latin America, the University of São Paulo, and creating a center for research in Brazil. He went on to lecture abroad as well, in schools such as Princeton and UC Berkeley in the United States and Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

In the late 1970s, FHC had been invited by the leader of the MDB to join the party, so he became a Vice-Senator in 1978. When the senator he was assisting became governor of São Paulo in 1983, FHC took his

place and became a senator. In 1988, however, he was disappointed with what he believed to be the PMDB's indecisiveness during Sarney's presidency, and so left the party to found another: the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB). He proceeded to become Itamar's Minister of Finance and put a stop to hyperinflation, leading to national recognition.

ADD PICTURE: FHC

FHC ran against Lula in 1995 and won the presidency. He had also opposed the military regime and had been exiled to Chile during most of the dictatorship. During FHC's presidency, he continued opening the Brazilian economy to foreigners, as Collor had done, and privatizing state-owned organizations. He converted the major company Vale do Rio Doce, one of the largest mineral producers in the world, into a public-private partnership, ended the state-owned petroleum company Petrobras' monopoly over the exploration of petroleum and natural gas, and privatized the telecommunication sector completely, doing away with state-owned Telebrás. The majority of these privatizations were seen as a success by the population. He also attempted to address the reform of social security, but his original proposals were stalled and drastically altered due to various political demands, thus failing to enact any real changes. Later, in 2017, FHC was mentioned by Emílio Odebrecht, a former president of major construction company Odebrecht, who signed a leniency agreement due to his bribery charges. Emílio mentioned that FHC's campaigns in 1994 and 1998 received illegal funding from Odebrecht, but said he is unsure if FHC was aware of these disallowed donations.

Lula's Government

After losing the previous three elections, Lula decided to run for president for a fourth time. He ran against José Serra, of the PSDB, and won with a large margin, having a majority in all but one state. He had run on a platform of enhancing government support to the lower classes, social inclusion, and greater rights for workers. He ran for reelection in 2006 against Governor of São Paulo Geraldo Alckmin, ultimately winning the

60% of the popular vote. This represented a lower level of votes than he received in the previous election and, this time, he did not win the majority in seven of the 27 federal units of Brazil. These “federal units” are composed of the 26 Brazilian states as well as the Federal District.

As president, Lula chose Henrique Meirelles, former president of the International Bank of Boston, to be the president of the Central Bank, as he intended to maintain, at least at first, FHC’s economic policies. With the Brazilian economy relatively stabilized due to the Plano Real and FHC’s governance, Lula’s presidency coincided with a period of economic growth and prosperity. The inflation rate was kept within the goals set by the Central Bank for seven of Lula’s eight years as president. Brazil’s GDP grew between around two to five percent per year, with an average of four-percent annual growth. Due to these favorable economic conditions, unemployment started decreasing.

ADD PICTURE: LULA

Despite having criticized the privatizations during FHC’s presidency, Lula privatized roads and a few electricity companies. Due to actions of Collor, Itamar, FHC, and Lula, the poverty index of the nation fell from 41% in 1990 to 25.6% in 2006, nearly halving in those 15 years. It is important to point out that this data has been contested and the actual figures for 2006 could be much closer to or even greater than Brazil’s 1990 poverty rate. Despite their possible inaccuracy, Lula was able to capitalize on these statistics and claimed that his policy and government had been the cause of such a drastic change, consolidating lower classes’ support for him. A comparison in the Human Development Index during Lula’s government indicated that the decrease in poverty levels cannot be solely attributed to his government. Despite the increase in Brazil’s HDI in absolute terms, that is, the increase of the value of the HDI, the nation fell in global rankings. This indicates that quality of life in Brazil improved during Lula’s presidency, but at a slower pace than other nations who previously were ranked lower than Brazil, since they were able to surpass it in rankings.

Lula ran on a platform of reforms. One such reform was the reform of the judicial system, which Lula had argued was slow and ineffective. He proposed the creation of the Conselho Nacional de Justiça (National Council of Justice), which would be a part of the Executive branch dedicated to overseeing the judicial branch. This was met with much opposition from the Judicial branch which, under many judge's interpretations, could not have official oversight from the Executive branch, as that would be unconstitutional. Eventually the CNJ was created, but differently from Lula's original proposal. Instead, the Judicial branch has oversight over the CNJ, ensuring that it is autonomous. The goal of the CNJ is to perfect the judicial system and increase its transparency, while maintaining its autonomy and strength.

Another of Lula's most famous and controversial programs was the Bolsa Família (Family Scholarship). The program actually began under the FHC administration, but at a smaller scale. Lula drastically increased the scope of the program, which is why he is normally associated with the creation of the program as it stands today. It essentially is a program involving the direct transfer of funds, in which lower-income families receive a fixed amount of money from the government to be spent as these families deem fit. He also instituted the Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) program, in which funds were distributed to families to purchase food.

The program was extremely controversial, as many considered it an indirect method of purchasing votes, perpetuating the PT's time in power. Indeed, several PT candidates would argue that a failure to re-elect them would result in their opponent ending the program. Most recently, during Dilma's impeachment process, she stated that her impeachment would be the end of this program and others like it, even though, at the time this guide was written, there was no indication that the Temer government had even considered taking such action.

In addition, some were worried that the system could easily become a victim of fraud, as controls over who qualified for the cash payments were not rigid. There are cases of families registering their dogs, dead relatives, and others as ways to collect more money from the government. A third concern was that the program

would lower the incentive that lower class families had to work. One idea presented was that, since the amount families received was proportional to their size, parents may have more kids to receive larger payments. Additionally, there was worry that parents simply would give up looking for jobs, settling instead for the regular payments from the government.

Another of the government's various social programs was *Primeiro Emprego* (First Job), aimed at helping young adults receive employment for the first time. The idea was to give companies fiscal incentives if they dedicated a certain number of jobs to be filled by young workers. Unlike *Bolsa Familia*, the program never gained much traction and was mostly deemed a failure. It assisted only 15,000 people in the first four years of Lula's government. The original plan for the program was to create over 260,000 new jobs for young adults per year. For its short-comings, the program was shut down in 2008.

With regards to education, Lula again bet on expanding government spending and creating more government programs. One such program was *ProUni*, which offered federal scholarships to students from lower social classes so that they could afford to attend private universities. In addition, the government opened another 14 public universities around Brazil. In Brazil, public universities are completely free, so those 14 universities opened during Lula's tenure allowed students to attend university at no direct cost to them. Despite these programs to improve education, at the end of Lula's two terms in office, approximately 18.5% of students were held back at least one year sometime during their pre-university studies. Furthermore, the percentage of the population that graduated from high school was still considered low according to a UNESCO report.

During this time period, the government also attempted to grow Brazil's foreign relations and global influence. Brazil played an active role in advocating for minorities rights in the Human Rights Council, in the peace operations in Haiti, and the UN operations in Guinea-Bissau. In addition, Lula visited numerous countries during his presidency and opened a series of embassies abroad, also inviting more nations to open embassies in the capital city of Brasilia.

This expansion was most likely caused by the nation's desire to acquire a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Towards this end, Lula opened Brazilian markets to China. This risked harming domestic companies and manufacturers, as Chinese products flooded the market and were much cheaper, driving prices down and making it harder for domestic companies to compete. In exchange, Lula wanted Chinese support in Brazil's bid for a permanent seat. This eventually failed however, as Japan, backed by the United States, also wanted a permanent seat in the Security Council. China could not ultimately support the inclusion of other nations in that organ, as Japanese participation was unacceptable to them.

Another failed attempt for greater international influence was Lula's expansion of state-owned petroleum company Petrobras into Bolivia. The Brazilian company expanded its operations there but, in 2006, Bolivian President Evo Morales nationalized all the companies' assets, essentially confiscating them and making them Bolivian property. Lula never responded to this action, causing discontent amongst Brazilians since the company suffered a billion-dollar loss due to these actions. Lula also did not condemn Paraguay's actions when the nation failed to comply with a bilateral agreement on the shared hydroelectric power plant of Itaipu, causing Brazil to pay more to its neighbor for the electric power generated by the shared plant.

The government had mixed results in terms of environmental protection. During most of the Lula presidency, the amount of deforestation in the Amazon reached its lowest point since 1991, but deforestation rose again in 2008. The Minister of the Environment at the time, Marina Silva, resigned after she met resistance from the government in continuing with her stronger pro-environment agenda.

In July 2005, the biggest corruption scandal of Brazil at the time was discovered. The Mensalão (Big Monthly Payment), as the scandal was dubbed, was a scheme which involved a series of members of the PT and other parties. Essentially, the PT purchased votes of Congresspersons in proposed bills and other pieces of legislation that would assist them in their government. These Congresspersons received values of approximately

R\$30,000 per month in exchange for their support of PT proposals. This led one of Lula's closest political allies, José Dirceu, to be removed from office and, eventually, imprisoned.

In his last year of government, 2010, another corruption scandal was discovered. This one involved government officials using their government credit cards for personal uses, spending federal money on items unrelated to their governmental roles. In another scandal, a few days prior to leaving office, Lula requested diplomatic passports for his two sons. According to Brazilian law, sons of diplomats or certain government officials are eligible to receive such passports if they are under the age of 21. This was not the case with Lula's children at the time, who were 25 and 39. In 2013, a court order mandated that these passports be confiscated and returned to the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

Despite these various scandals, Lula finished his second term with very high approval ratings, close to 87 percent, the highest his ratings had ever reached. His popularity allowed him to control the PT and decide who their next candidate would be. He designated Dilma Rousseff, a close political ally and his former Chief-of-Staff, and supported her campaign, participating in various events and maintaining a very active role in her electoral committee. After the end of his presidency, he was still politically active, supporting the Dilma government and maintaining tight control over the PT. Many people saw this as an indication that Lula wasn't done with politics just yet. After all, Brazilian legislature caps the number of consecutive presidential terms at two, but there is no limit to how many terms one can be president. That is, it is possible to serve for eight years, then wait for an election cycle, and once again run for office.

Dilma's Government

With Lula's support, Dilma was cast from relative political obscurity to the presidency. Lula's popularity expanded the PT's prestige and enabled it to stay in power. However, Dilma did not possess Lula's charisma and negotiation abilities, which led her government to experience a series of crises. In addition, Lula's

government took place during a cycle of economic growth which was not sustained throughout Dilma's tenure. Prior to the election, the PT announced an alliance with the PMDB. The two parties would form a coalition, with Dilma as their candidate for president and Michel Temer as her running mate. This brought together two of the largest parties in the country. In 2010 she ran against Jose Serra of the PSDB and was able to defeat him. Her victory, however, was by a smaller margin than Lula's but was still somewhat large. She received 56 percent of the votes, winning a majority in 15 of the states and the Federal District.

Dilma's government mainly continued with many of the programs and policies put in place by Lula. She maintained similar economic policies as her predecessor, but at this point the rampant government spending started taking a toll. By 2014, the trade balance, the difference between exports and imports, was negative for the first time since 2000. Brazil was also the country that experienced the largest ranking drop in a survey that determines whether domestic companies can succeed nationally and internationally. Inflation started to rise and missed the goals established by the Central Bank several years during Dilma's presidency. The toll of her party's economic policies were starting to become more evident.

In order to try to contain inflation, her government cut back on federal spending, reducing the budget by R\$50 billion. This went directly against one of her campaign promises. She also travelled to China to discuss expanding international relations, allowing Brazilian plane manufacturer Embraer to manufacture in China in exchange for China opening its markets to Brazilian meat imports. This was controversial as it could lead to outsourcing Brazilia jobs, which the Workers' Party is against. Indeed, Dilma spent a significant portion of her time focuses on specific policies, neglecting larger-scale issues, such as the health of the economy, which in turn is what ensures the sustainability of investments in health and education.

One such policy was the expansion of some of Lula's educational programs, creating Pronatec in the process. This program was aimed at expanding the number of majors that Brazilian students could choose from

at university, in addition to investing in technological training. Despite the heavy investments in education under her and Lula's governments, Brazil was still underperforming in international educational rankings. Some experts believe that these issues were not caused by lack of government funding, but instead by poor administration and allocation of these funds.

Dilma's tenure as president led up to the FIFA 2014 World Cup, which was hosted in Brazil. This was the second time Brazil would host the tournament, as it also hosted the 1950 edition. Although football is the most popular sport in the country and Brazilians are, in general, very supportive of the national team, many Brazilians opposed government spending on renewing the football stadiums and other areas, which was needed to comply with FIFA regulations. Spending on stadiums was extremely over budget, and many suspected that this was due to corruption. Of the 12 stadiums built or renovated for the World Cup, ten are under investigation for corruption.

One example is the stadium built in Manaus, in the state of Amazonas. A city located in the Amazon, as the name of the state indicates, Manaus has an average match attendance of 2,000 fans. However, the city received a new stadium that cost over half-a-billion Reais, with the capacity for nearly 50,000 fans. This and Dilma's sinking popularity on other matters led to her being booed during the opening ceremony of the World Cup. She had also been booed at the opening ceremony of the FIFA Confederations Cup, a smaller tournament that occurs every four years, one year before the World Cup.

Dilma disagreed with Lula on a few issues of foreign relations. Brazil had, to this point, avoided taking a stance in favor or against United Nations sanctions imposed against Iran, usually abstaining during these voting sessions. Dilma, however, made it clear that she was opposed to the violations of human rights and that she would be willing to vote in favor of new sanctions if necessary. She also maintained stronger fiscal relations with other Latin American nations, particularly those which also had populist governments, such as Bolivia, Venezuela, and Cuba. In particular, she offered R\$ 701 million to Cuban leaders so that they could finance a

port in Cuba. This caused many Brazilians to be outraged, as Brazil was already starting to demonstrate signs of a weakening economy, yet the government showed a willingness to invest in foreign nations.

One of Dilma's main and most controversial programs was Mais Medicos (More Doctors), which aimed to import foreign doctors to Brazil and send them to poor, rural regions of the country, where they are most needed. The majority of these would come from Cuba, a country the PT was seen as supporting politically and financially. However, many Brazilian professionals were against the program, arguing that Brazil did not need more doctors, but instead required more investment in health infrastructure to ensure that the many doctors already in Brazil could treat their patients in an efficient, effective, and safe manner. Despite the initiative, a Bloomberg study ranked Brazil's healthcare system in last place out of the 48 countries surveyed, serving as evidence that the system still requires much work, thought, and effort.

Dilma was also criticized for her stance on the environment. During her government, her allied base approved new environmental regulations that forgave the fees of agronomists who had illegally destroyed wildlife to grow their crops. The vast majority, 79%, of the population opposed this bill, but it was approved by Congress. The relaxed standards also caused deforestation in the Amazon to spike by up to 437%, breaking the downward trend experienced in the years following up to this reform.

Relaxing standards in environmental regulation also led to criticism from indigenous populations who accused the government of favoring agribusiness, putting rich land owners' needs ahead of those who had originally occupied the land. One of the main indigenous lobbying groups went so far as to request UN intervention to ensure that indigenous rights were respected. The same group also calculated that aggressive acts against native populations rose by 237% in 2013, relative to the previous year.

The indigenous people were not the only ones who began to protest the government. With the various corruption scandals of Dilma's ministers and PT party members, as well as the growing skepticism about government spending practices, the general population took to the streets. In June 2013, while the

Confederations Cup was hosted in Brazil, record-breaking protests occurred, with 84% of the population supporting them. As a result, the president spoke on national television to attempt to calm populations, promising to meet with mayors and governors to work together towards improving public services.

At the beginning of her first term, Dilma's popularity was relatively high, similar to Lula's when he exited the presidency, with approximately 47% of the population rating the government as "good" or excellent. And even despite the 2013 protests, Dilma was able to secure her reelection in 2014. Yet, it was an extremely close and polarizing result. Dilma won just 51% of the votes, beating Aécio Neves (PSDB) by a narrow margin. Popular discontent continued to grow, and after the various scandals that rocked her government, her approval ratings decreased to only eight percent. This was a few months before the impeachment process against her began.

Dilma's short-lived second term was rocked with economic issues. The economy began to slow down and consumer spending decreased. At the same time, inflation started to rise, worrying many Brazilians, as the country had experienced damagingly high inflation rates for several years after the end of the military government. This made it difficult for Dilma to govern, and she quickly lost the support of the population and her political allies. The PMDB officially left her government on 29 March 2016. By that time, the impeachment process had already progressed significantly.

The Speaker of the House at the time, Eduardo Cunha (PMDB), began impeachment proceedings against Dilma the day after the PT voted in favor of a motion which would begin an investigation against him on charges of corruption. This was in early December 2015. At first, Temer, the Vice President at the time, did not come out with an official position favoring or opposing the impeachment proceedings. A few days later, however, he wrote a letter to Dilma saying that he felt that they no longer worked well together and implying that she had blocked him from exercising his role as Vice President. This signaled to many that the PMDB

would withdraw their support from the government, with many PMDB members of the cabinet resigning, indicating Dilma's days as president were limited.

The official charge for Dilma's impeachment was that she delayed payment of loans to federal banks so as to obscure the debt her government had gradually built up. In May 2016, she was temporarily suspended from her role as president, making Temer the acting president while her impeachment process continued in the Senate. On 31 August 2016, she was officially impeached by a 61-20 Senate vote, and Temer formally assumed the nation's highest office.

In addition to the official charges brought against her, there were a series of other reasons why Dilma was removed from office. The economic crisis caused by her administration had caused negative public sentiment and also led to a political crisis. The Lava Jato investigation, which identified and indicted a number of politicians for corruption and similar charges, also added fuel to this crisis. Many members of the PT came under scrutiny from the Federal Police, including Lula. With little political support, Dilma was removed from the presidency. After 14 years, the PT abruptly transitioned from government to opposition, and the PMDB was able to have a third vice-president rise due to the demise of the president, with Temer joining the ranks of Sarney and Itamar.

Temer's Government

At first, Temer's government started out relatively stable and with strong prospects for economic growth. Temer was able to bring together a series of parties, giving him a comfortable margin of support in Congress. This pro-Temer coalition was dubbed the "Centrão" (Big Center) and is considered one of the largest parliamentary coalitions ever formed since Brazil's re-democratization in 1988.

This allowed Temer to maintain an ambitious agenda. As previously mentioned, the president had already announced that he had no intention of running for re-election. For this reason, he could consider more drastic and unpopular, albeit necessary, reforms that could improve Brazil's economy both in the short term and grant greater economic security in the long term. His vast support in Congress also allowed him to advocate for reforms that required Congressional approval and cannot be adopted via Executive Order.

One of the controversial projects Temer decided to go forward with is the transposition of the São Francisco river, which is discussed in greater length later in this guide. The two most drastic proposals, however, were his proposals for labor reform and social security reform. The nation's labor laws had not been updated since Vargas' mandate in the 1930s, so Temer's proposition was aimed at formalizing current practices, updating the labor codes, and altering many other aspects of these laws.

One of the most controversial parts of the proposal would end mandatory union contributions, which until this point were required and automatically deducted from workers' salaries. Left wing parties such as the PT (Workers' Party), which became an opposition party after Dilma's impeachment and Temer's ascension, argued that such changes would weaken unions and minimize their bargaining capacity against corporations. The government's rebuttal was that they were not proposing to extinguish these contributions, but instead making them optional. Another change was that workers could choose to split their vacation periods over three periods, a practice some companies had already allowed but was not codified in the labor law at the time, which allowed said period to be split only twice. In addition, the government proposed alterations that gave pregnant women more flexibility in terms of where they could work, allowed workers to negotiate with their employers shorter work days in exchange for shorter lunch periods, and a series of other propositions.

The second major reform was even more controversial than the labor reform. Government spending on pension programs and social security was rapidly increasing and the deficit caused by these was projected to increase 57%, to a total of R\$ 101 billion, by 2020. To mitigate future fiscal issues, Temer proposed a reform

aimed at reducing government costs in the long term. One of the main changes the government proposed was establishing a minimum retirement age of 65 and a minimum formal employment period of at least 25 years, a drastic change since no minimum retirement age exists now. Social security payments would also no longer be adjusted each year according to minimum wage, which has happened under the current system. The percentage the retiree receives from the wages he or she earned as an employee would also decrease. As expected, such drastic proposals have received serious push-back from a series of oppositionists, government employees, and others.

These propositions, in addition to a congressional bill that froze government spending and allowed the government to adjust their budget each year only by the level of inflation, showed foreign investors that Temer's government was seriously reducing government spending to stabilize the economy. After a few months, positive results could already be seen. The Brazilian Real to US Dollar exchange rate fell from a height of R\$ 4.24 in September 2015 to R\$ 3.12 in early May 2017. The GDP started to grow again and inflation fell drastically, from a previous high at around 10% per year to 4%. As inflation decreased, the Central Bank decided it was time to cut interest rates and these started to decline from a peak of 14.25% to 11.25%, with a projection to end the year at 8.75%. In broad terms, this allows banks and people to borrow at cheaper rates, incentivizing spending and the growth of the economy.

It all almost seemed too good to be true. On 18 May 2017, things took a turn to the worse. Joesley Batista, the owner of one of the largest companies in Brazil and one of the largest meat producers in the world, signed a leniency agreement with the Brazilian Attorney General and turned over recordings of a conversation with Temer that seemed to implicate him in corruption and attempts to curb Lava Jato's efforts. Spokespeople for the president attempted to cast doubt on the validity of the tape, saying it was recorded illegally and could have been edited or tampered. The Federal Police conducted an investigation that concluded this was not the case and that the audio was indeed authentic.

There was vast public outcry against Temer after the recordings came out. The PSDB considered withdrawing their support from the government, but eventually decided against this move. Younger members of the party advocated towards leaving the government, arguing that connections to Temer could hurt the PSDB's chances in the upcoming presidential elections. Older members of the party, however, advocated in favor of maintaining their support for Temer, especially after former PSDB president, presidential candidate, and current senator Aécio Neves was also accused of corruption; some of his family members were even arrested due to these allegations. These older members considered that it would be necessary to have the PMDB's support in case the opposition attempted to remove Aécio from office. Although the final decision was to maintain allied to the government, the president of the PSDB, Tasso Jereissati, did state that the party will gradually start distancing itself from Temer.

The Attorney General also officially indicted the president for corruption using Joesley's evidence and this became the first time a criminal charge was brought against a president during his mandate. The constitution, however, has clauses that grant the presidency some level of protection against such occurrences. For the indictment to be considered by the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives must first approve, by a two-thirds majority, that the case go forward. If the House votes in favor of continuing the case, then Temer will officially have a criminal case against him in the Supreme Court. Otherwise, the case can only go forward after Temer leaves the presidency. It seems likely that the opposition will not be able to whip sufficient votes for the process to go forward and that Temer will not have to deal with the case until the end of his mandate.

The most recent political crisis froze Congress and caused a delay in the government's plans for reform. If Temer were to be deposed, Speaker of the House Rodrigo Maia, of the Democratic Party (DEM), would become president. Maia also has widespread support in Congress and would probably continue Temer's reform agenda. Despite opposition and much uncertainty, the labor reform was approved by both the House and Senate and signed into law in July 2017. Politically weakened, it is uncertain if Temer will be able to garner

enough support for the comprehensive social security reform he had envisioned. The president's fragility has also caused much uncertainty about the future of Brazil and the presidential elections of 2018.

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The preceding history of Brazil may seem long-winded or unnecessary, but much of what is happening now is a product of what happened in the past. Indeed, many of these former presidents are still active in politics today, contributing to their parties and some of them assisting their children, who are now also in politics. Collor is now a senator; Sarney is still involved in PMDB party politics and is rumored to be a close ally of his son, the Minister of the Environment during Temer's presidency; FHC is still active in the PSDB; and Lula, who is further discussed below, may once again run for president. It is also important to understand the history of the population of Brazil including why most of the major parties in Brazil are left-leaning when compared to other nations; this is likely due to the years of far-right leadership during the military government.

Topics For Discussions

Overview of the Topics

Overview of the Topics

The cabinet simulation will start on January 28th, 2018. As a cabinet, ministers must find a way to manage the nation during one of the largest political crises in its history. With that said, the committee will focus on two aspects in particular: the upcoming presidential elections and governing the “Country of Tomorrow”

The Presidential Elections of 2018

Brazil's Electoral System

Brazil employs a majoritarian system for executive offices and for spots in the senate. This means that, to be elected, it is necessary to obtain more than 50% of the popular vote. Note that Brazil is also a direct democracy, so each citizen is entitled to one vote, and each of these votes is equally counted and serves to decide which candidate wins.

Voting is universal in Brazil, meaning that every citizen, regardless of socioeconomic status or level of education, is entitled to a vote. The only requirement is that the citizen must be at least 16 years old. Elections are also secret, so that no one can identify who has voted for which candidate. Finally, voting is compulsory if a citizen is between the ages of 18 and 70. Those who pass on their obligation to vote are charged a small fine, which must be paid in order for the citizen to restore normal relations with the government, such as renewing a passport.

Voting is done in voting centers throughout cities. These are filled with booths, with each booth containing an electronic voting machine. The machines have been tested multiple times and are considered extremely reliable and safe, so election fraud is rare. The machine displays one of the offices that is available, such as the office of the mayor, and voters type in the party number of the candidate they support. For example, if one wanted to vote for a candidate for mayor from the PSDB, he or she would type in the party's number, 45.

The PMDB's number is 15 and the PT's is 13. More of these party numbers can be found using the following reference, contained in the guide's footnotes. The candidate's name and picture appear on the machine, so that the voter may confirm that he or she typed in the number they desired, and the voter confirms their vote. Subsequently, the next position for which elections are being held, such as governor, appears, and a similar process ensues.

ADD PHOTO: Voting Machine

The fact that voting is mandatory does not necessarily mean that every citizen must cast a vote in favor of a specific candidate. If a voter does not wish to vote for any candidate, they have three main options. First, they can simply not show up to the polls and opt to pay the small fee. Second, they can vote blank, clicking the button labeled "branco" (white), indicating they have no preference. Finally, they can annul their vote, by voting on a party number that simply does not exist, such as 00, and confirming their vote. All of these three options do not influence the results of the elections, as a candidate must only acquire more than 50% of the valid votes, that is, votes that went to specific candidates.

Most executive positions in Brazil have two rounds of voting. In the first round, in early October, a voter can vote on any of the candidates running for a specific position. So, for example, if there were 11 candidates for the office of president, a voter could choose any of them to receive their vote. If, at the end of this round, one of these 11 candidates receives more than 50% of the valid votes, then they are elected into office. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, then the top two candidates proceed to a second round of voting, usually occurring in late October. In this run-off election, only the top two candidates of the previous round are eligible choices and the other nine candidates in this example would no longer have a chance to hold that office in this election cycle.

Protests and Social Media

The protests that occurred in summer of 2013 were historic. The high number of people participating was no doubt due to the discontent of the people with their elected officials and the numerous allegations of corruption by which they were surrounded. One of the main reasons that protestors were able to organize themselves and have such large demonstrations, however, was due to social media. Twitter and Facebook, and increasingly Whatsapp, enable messages, videos, and opinions to reach an enormous amount of people relatively quickly. This dissemination is key for high-volume mobilization.

While Twitter and Facebook have been key platforms for protest organization around the world (specifically during the Arab Spring in the Middle East), Whatsapp's involvement in protest might be uniquely Brazilian. Whatsapp is an incredibly popular messaging app worldwide and especially in Brazil, as 10% of all Whatsapp users are Brazilians. It is used by stores and companies to communicate with their clients and used by families and friends to stay in touch through messaging groups and direct messages. The subsidiary of Facebook, which has 1.2 billion users worldwide, depends as heavily on the Brazilian market as Brazilians depend on it. In other words, there are approximately 120 million Brazilian Whatsapp users, more than half of the population of Brazil.

Social media's role in disseminating information also impacts the world of news. As in the US, Brazilians are relying more heavily on social media for their news. Although nearly every news channel has biases to some extent, Facebook's policy of freedom of speech makes it very easy for "fake news" to spread. A report indicated that three of the five most frequently shared posts during Dilma's impeachment voting procedure in the House contained a significant amount of baseless information. This has a huge impact on the way citizens view an issue as important as a government vote.

Fake news isn't the only worry for Facebook, Whatsapp, or their users. Many people use Whatsapp for various tasks, not all of which are legal. In 2016, a judge subpoenaed a Whatsapp conversation as there was evidence which indicated the conversation could contribute to an ongoing investigation. Facebook, Whatsapp's

owner, claimed that the end-to-end encryption system the messaging app uses makes it impossible for the messages to be accessed outside the two cellphones that sent and received the message. The judge, believing that the company was withholding information to protect their customers, issued a judicial order blocking Whatsapp nationally for a period of a few days. This has happened more than once in the nation. Bans like this inconvenienced many people and businesses, since so many of them rely on Whatsapp for their daily tasks. In addition, the fact that the government can simply block a mode of communication brings up questions about freedom of speech.

Candidate Platforms

PT

Lula, the PT's most likely candidate for the presidential race, is under heavy investigation. He has been accused of participating in various corruption scandals. He has also publicly criticized the federal judge who oversees some of his cases, going so far as to say that if he (Lula) is not arrested soon, he might arrest those who are investigating him, should he be elected president. The outspoken head of the PT is very controversial in Brazil. Some argue that, despite the corruption accusations brought against him, Lula had a net positive benefit for the country, bringing many out of poverty and giving families better opportunities to grow economically. Others see the enormous volume of corruption allegations and argue that he had no intention of helping others, but was instead interested in enriching himself and prolonging his and his party's time in power.

Lula supports a large government presence in the economy, maintaining the importance of expensive social programs. He is opposed to the reform of social security, saying that this removes benefits from poorer workers, preventing them from retiring with the benefits he believes they deserve. He has also spoken against the employment regulation reform, calling it a "return to slavery." Lula believes the reform on monthly payments to

unions, which prior to the reform were mandatory and with the reform would be optional, is aimed at corroding union political power.

If the PT were to once again have the presidency, financial markets would likely bet against Brazil. This is because the PT favors increased government spending, which would also increase national debt, as occurred in the economic crisis that Brazil is in the process of exiting. Some fear as well that if Lula were to be elected, he would derail many of Lava Jato's operations, delaying any legal actions that could be taken against him. There is also the possibility, however, that Lula will be unable to run. If he is condemned in any of the cases open against him, he would not be eligible to become a candidate. Furthermore, the Supreme Electoral Court could rule that he cannot run due to the allegations against him.

PDSB

The PDSB does not have a clear candidate yet. The party's former president, Aécio Neves, is also heavily investigated by the Lava Jato operation. Many of those who worked with him, including his family members, have been arrested. He does not have the political capital to run for president, as he did in 2014. However, there are still two potential candidates for the PSDB.

The first of these is Geraldo Alckmin, longtime governor of São Paulo. He has run for president before, against Lula in 2006. He has vast political and governing experience, but his support in his home state is waning, with only 31% of citizens in São Paulo approving his actions as governor. He is also under investigation and has been accused of receiving bribes from construction company Odebrecht, a major bribe payer in the scandals regarding the Lava Jato operation. Since he is seen as a member of the establishment, which many Brazilians now oppose, he may not have enough popular support for an eventual presidential bid.

In Alckmin's place, the most likely candidate for the PSDB would be the newly-elected mayor of São Paulo, João Doria. Doria is considered new to politics by many, transitioning in the past years from the business world to the political world. With that said, Alckmin seems keen on running for president, and Doria likely will

not compete against him for the party's ticket. This is because Alckmin is considered Doria's "political godfather", the person who introduced Doria to the party and supported him to his election as mayor. It is more likely that the two of them will discuss their political ambitions privately and settle on an agreement deciding who will run to ensure that they continue to appear united and to prevent conflict within the PSDB.

The PSDB is regarded as more market-friendly, mostly due to former president Fernando Henrique Cardoso's policies of opening the Brazilian economy to foreign investment. Considering their involvement in the Temer government, they mostly support the economic reforms and see them as necessary to balance the government's budget and prevent a larger recession or debt in the future.

PMDB

Finally, although the PMDB had previously announced that they would launch their own candidate during this election cycle, it is still not yet clear who that may be. In 2015, there was speculation of three potential candidates for the PMDB: former mayor of Rio de Janeiro Eduardo Paes, at-the-time Vice-President Michael Temer, and former Speaker of the House Eduardo Cunha. As previously discussed in this guide, Temer has already announced he is not seeking reelection. In addition, with the accusations surrounding the JBS scandal, he has lost most of his political power and popular support.

Eduardo Cunha, who was instrumental in Dilma's impeachment, has since been removed from his position as Speaker of the House. As investigations against him relating to Lava Jato started to pile up, he was politically isolated. Since then, he was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to 15 years in prison. The only remaining name from that speculation, then, is Eduardo Paes. He has also been accused of accepting bribes, but since more widely known and influential politicians are also involved, media coverage of Paes has been relatively limited. As Rio's mayor during the 2016 Summer Olympics, some had thought he would receive national coverage and gain larger recognition. Although this did occur to some extent, after Dilma's impeachment it

became more likely that Paes would instead run for governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro in 2018. For these reasons, it is still unclear who might be on the PMDB's ticket in 2018.

An elected leader from the PMDB would likely see Temer's reforms through and give continuity to his government. It is not clear however, what the PMDB's platform would be, since they have not launched a presidential candidate representing their party in a long time, and hence it is harder to predict what their stances may be.

Finally, it is entirely possible that an outsider will make a presidential bid. With all three of the above parties involved in the Lava Jato operation, an outsider could capitalize on the public's dissatisfaction with the establishment. It is not clear if this will occur, or who would be able to propel him or herself enough to gain national attention during this political crisis and tumultuous period, but the opportunity there is ripe for the taking. This individual would be faced with two challenges, however. The first is garnering sufficient funds to be able to counteract those of these three large parties. The second is that, by Brazilian electoral laws, each candidate must be affiliated with a political party. Considering so many parties are involved in the Lava Jato operation, such a candidate would have to carefully consider with which party he or she would affiliate.

Governing “The Country of Tomorrow”

Although the elections are paramount to Brazil's future, the nation's day-to-day operations cannot be neglected, especially considering the turmoil faced in recent months. Some of the most recent scandals and government projects are described in this section so that ministers are aware (and weary) of what has happened and could happen again if they are not careful with the nation's governance.

Operação Carne Fraca

The Federal Police discovered in March 2017, through the Operação Carne Fraca (Operation Weak Meat) that over 20 meat companies had been selling and exporting meat containing dangerous chemicals or that

had already expired. Furthermore, public servants had received bribes in exchange for turning a blind eye to these meat producers' crimes. This revelation caused mass outrage nationally and internationally, as many countries threatened to embargo Brazilian meat exports. Some countries, such as China, Chile, Egypt, and South Korea went so far as to enact such an embargo, but removed it after a few days. The European Commission also stated they would continue to monitor Brazilian meat imports to ensure that they met the standard of the European Union.

President Temer feared that this news could potentially harm the nation's gradual economic recovery, and so he downplayed the extent of the scandal and of the spoiled meat. In retrospect, the meat crisis did not present a significant problem for the Brazilian economy, although shares of publicly traded companies involved in the scandal did drop. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aloysio Nunes, was also sent to some embassies to assure foreign diplomats that the crisis had been resolved and the spoiled meat had been identified and removed. Many politicians allied to Temer publicly argued that the Federal Police and media were exaggerating the true extent of the impact of this scandal and that, in actuality, it only impacted a small percentage of the overall meat production.

This real-life crisis highlights the importance of raising ethical standards in Brazil, as a small, concentrated scandal such as this one can have not only national, but international repercussions. As such, it is necessary to consider what exactly can be done to alter the culture in Brazil so that these smaller acts of corruption are discouraged and condemned. Although prevention is one of the best methods of combating corruption and other crises, it is inevitable that some of these may appear. For this reason, it is important to always prepare for the worst. Few people could predict that, amongst so many other corruption investigations, an investigation much smaller than other operations would dominate the media cycles and cause such a large crisis for the government.

Transposition of the São Francisco River

Brazil is estimated to have approximately one fifth of the world's fresh water reserves. However, a series of issues prevent the nation from taking full advantage of this resource. The water resources are not distributed evenly with the population, causing some places to have abundance in water and others, usually areas with larger population densities, to lack sufficient resources. The supply infrastructure that disperses water is also not very developed, causing a large portion of water to go to waste.

Another problem is that the areas surrounding river basins and over water sources have suffered degradation, lowering the quality of water or otherwise impacting its access. Climate change also plays a role in the distribution of water in Brazil, as droughts now last longer than they used to before, and rain patterns are changing. Finally, a significant portion of Brazil's water reserves are underground and there is not yet sufficient infrastructure to access these reserves.

For all of these reasons, the nation has recently faced a number of water shortage crises. In the last several months, the situation in São Paulo was so critical that the government imposed water rationing in the region. Eventually, waters reserves rose again to the necessary level and the rationing was lifted. Shortly after this, however, a different area of the nation was affected by a drought: Brasilia.

A water shortage affects the everyday lives of citizens and industries. The former are unable to consume water as they had in the past, as the government must impose certain restrictions to prevent the water sources for these cities from completely drying out. This also presents an issue to the Brazilian economy, which depends heavily on water. Approximately 62% of Brazil's energy comes from hydroelectric plants and the agricultural industry, an important industry for the Brazilian economy, also heavily depends on this resource.

Although the majority of the nation is impacted by these droughts, the Northeast faces longer droughts more frequently. The region receives few days of rain throughout the year, as usually only warm fronts are present in the region and rain occur when a warm and a cold front collide. Deforestation is also a cause for the

decreased humidity in the region. This is one of the reasons why the drought in 2012 was the worse experienced in the area for the last 30 years.

ADD PICTURE: Sao Francisco River

One of the propositions to help those living in these extremely dry regions was the transposition of the São Francisco river. The river flows from Minas Gerais, through Bahia, Pernambuco, Sergipe and Alagoas, eventually flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. It has six hydroelectric plants generating electricity for the region, is used by many of the local farmers as a resource to irrigate their crops, and sustains the small cities that were built close to the river. The São Francisco River is also an important waterway, connecting the industrious and landlocked state of Minas Gerais to an ocean.

As one of the few sources of water in the region, the river is currently under stress. In 2015, one of the largest water reservoirs along the river reached the critical level of only 18% of capacity. In other words, 82% of what the reservoir was supposed to hold in water was empty. For this reason, the project of transposing the river, that is, constructing artificial canals and diverting water from it so that it can reach the societies most affected by the drought, has been very controversial. On one hand, some argue that it is necessary to provide the regional populations with a water supply, and the river is the best candidate for such supply. Opponents argue that the river is already under tremendous stress and that expanding this further could cause the entire river to dry up, harming not only the populations who could benefit from the transposition, but also all of those who already have access to the river.

The idea of such a project came about many years ago. Sources going as far back as Imperial Brazil, in the early 1800s, proposed such a transposition as the solution for the annual droughts in the Northeast. A formal government proposal, however, was originally created during the Lula government, in 2007, and is under the oversight of the Ministry of National Integration. The project was supposed to be completed by 2012, but a series of obstacles delayed its completion until the Temer administration.

The project, if it goes through, is expected to benefit approximately 12 million people in the region. The engineering behind it is relatively simple. Essentially, the government will build a stream on the ground to where it wants to divert the water and will then connect that stream to the river, allowing the water that flows through the river to also enter the stream. Much of the redirected flow will be pulled by natural force of gravity. When possible, the streams are going to be built with a slight angle of inclination, so that the water is able to naturally flow through.

However, not all can be built on a declining slope, so the government will supplement with a system of pumps, which will allow the water to flow through uneven terrain. This is necessary because these artificial streams, unlike the natural river, do not have the a current as strong as the natural river. Some of these streams will be above ground and it will be possible to actually see the water flowing. However, for portions of the artificial streams, the water will flow through tunnels and aqueducts, to ensure that it may reach its destination.

During the Temer government, new phases of the transposition have been completed. Temer visited the state of Paraíba, one of the states that will benefit from this transposition to inaugurate the new stream. Days later, Lula and Dilma went to the same site to “re-inaugurate” the stream. Since the project has been ongoing for various governments, politicians and political parties are vying to gain credit for the completion of the project. Such credit is very valuable, as it could mean securing more votes in the Northeast for the upcoming 2018 presidential elections.

With that said, politicians may be acting prematurely. There is still no way of telling how the river will react to this additional stress, especially given its already low flow. It is very possible that parts of the river will start to dry, preventing new populations from gaining access to this source and taking away from those who previously had access to the river.

Brazil's Recent Health Crises

As a tropical and vast country, Brazil is replete with wildlife. Unfortunately, this includes pests and insects that carry various diseases. As previously discussed in this guide, Brazil's health care system leaves much to desire, meaning that when health crises occur, they usually happen on a large scale. In Brazil's case, most of the diseases that have caused health crises in recent years are transmitted by mosquitoes, especially the *Aedes aegypti* species, which is common in the country.

The most common mosquito-related sickness in Brazil is dengue. With that said, of the three sicknesses discussed in this section, dengue is also the least dangerous. Toward the end of April 2016, the Ministry of Health revealed that there were 802,000 reported cases of dengue spread throughout the country in just those first four months of the year. Dengue causes a high fever, muscular pain, and other symptoms, though these usually can be mitigated with medication in a few days or weeks. However, getting the disease for a second time makes it much more dangerous and the symptoms become exacerbated. At times, the disease can be fatal. Small dengue crises occur relatively frequently, with a significant number of people becoming infected by the disease every year.

The second disease, which received international coverage after having migrated to Brazil from Africa, is the Zika virus. From the beginning of 2016 to the end of April 2016, 91,000 cases of Zika were reported in the country. The first signs of this disease are headaches, itchiness, and red eyes. The disease is also considered benign for the patient, but there have been rare cases of more aggressive symptoms, including death. One of the reasons this disease gained so much attention was likely the fact that Zika can be transmitted sexually and from a pregnant mother to her baby. Zika during pregnancy has been linked to microcephaly, a disease in newborn babies that prevents their brains from fully growing and developing. In this sense, although the effects of Zika are not permanent in the patient, they can be transmitted to their offspring causing other, permanent diseases to develop.

Zika also spread surprisingly quickly to areas that it had never been detected before, causing many nations to issue travel advisories and discouraging select groups that would be especially effected by the disease, such as pregnant women, from traveling to areas that had reported a high number of cases. The Zika crisis also occurred during the 2016 Summer Olympics, which were held in Brazil. The timeline caused the virus to receive even more international coverage. A handful of foreign athletes also gave up on competing in the Olympics over fears that they could contract the disease while in Brazil. With that said, there were no reported cases of a professional athlete suffering from the virus due to their participation in the games.

The third and final virus transmitted by mosquitos that has recently received a significant amount of press coverage is Yellow Fever. Until a few months ago, Yellow Fever was relatively rare and not a national concern. The virus can be avoided with a vaccination, which contains a controlled amount of the active virus and helps the body build its own immune system to combat the virus for a period of approximately 10 years. If caught by an unvaccinated individual, Yellow Fever can cause headaches, nausea, vomiting and, in more extreme cases, cardiac complications and other fatal consequences.

In the four months from December 2016 to March 2017, there were 574 cases of Yellow Fever confirmed by the Ministry of Health. Minas Gerais, one of the most populous states in Brazil, is also the most affected by the crisis. The root cause of this surge in cases is still not yet known, but it has caused concern internationally. Many Latin American nations, such as Panama, Cuba, and Venezuela, now require that Brazilians traveling to their borders prove that they have been vaccinated for Yellow Fever.

A series of measures have already been taken to combat the main propagator of these diseases, the *Aedes aegypti*. The government and media are engaged in public campaigns to inform citizens of day-to-day actions they can take in an effort to curb the mosquito's procreation. One of the most important of these is to reduce the prevalence of uncovered sitting water, as a still moist environment is favorable for the mosquitoes' larvae to develop. Although covering some of these areas may be easy, such as kiddie pools or outside toilets, others can be

quite difficult to conceal. Bromeliads, a type of plant, can accumulate a significant amount of water in its leaves, and this is one of the top five most commonly ignored breeding areas for these mosquitos. Other examples include upturned bottle caps and even empty snail shells, which are small enough to go unnoticed and become breeding grounds for these mosquitos.

The health organs on the state level have also set up methods to help citizens identify and mark areas that are potential breeding grounds so that government bodies may go to these areas and act appropriately to curb the threat of these mosquitos. Other technological advances, such as digital maps, are playing a role in identifying worrisome locations.

Another government effort involves sending field agents to neighborhoods with many cases of these diseases to inspect homes in the region and inform local communities of what they can do in the fight to combat these diseases. The efforts also included sending ministers to various locations around Brazil to participate in such events. In addition, over 140,000 Brazilian students are involved in research and other projects aimed at reducing the number of mosquitos in the country.

The effort has become international, with research institutions and scientists around the world investigating how to best combat the spread of the *Aedes aegypti*. One promising solution lies in genetics. Only the female mosquitos bite other animals as they usually need the blood to produce and lay their eggs. Male mosquitos, on the other hand, only consume nectar and hence are not as much of a threat in spreading these diseases. Scientists from Virginia Tech are investigating if it would be possible to switch genomes in mosquitos so that only male mosquitos are born, dramatically decreasing the spread of these disease, since males do not bite other animals. However, the research is not yet completed and only serves as one potential avenue that may be used to combat these diseases in the future.

The Biggest Economic Crisis in Brazilian History

Brazil left one of the largest global economic crises in history relatively unscathed, performing well in 2008 and 2009 relative to the economies of developed nations, which dove into large recessions. However, the country's luck did not last very long. In 2013, the nation's GDP grew at about 3% per year, a respectable rate relative to developed economies, but lower than most emerging nations, such as India and China, which grew at more than twice that rate. The following year, growth nearly halted, and GDP was calculated to have increased only 0.5%.

In the 2014 elections, it was clear that the country was on the brink of financial woes, but Dilma slammed Aécio for most of his cost-cutting proposals. Shortly after Dilma's election, many, including Lula, noticed that Dilma was in fact adopting some of the same proposals she had used to discredit Aécio. These measures, however, proved to be insufficient. The nation's economy shrunk by nearly 4% in 2015. Although the World Bank predicts that the worst has passed, the nation has been set back multiple years, and its GDP is forecasted to grow by only 2.2% by 2019. To see the sizeable drop in GDP, one can compare the Brazilian index at its peak in 2011, when it hit USD 2.6 trillion, to where it was in 2015, at USD 1.8 trillion, representing a total decrease of approximately 30%.

As one might expect, this decrease in economic output was felt at all levels. Unemployment rose in the country to approximately 13.2% by the end of the first quarter of 2017. This was one of the highest levels since 2012, as 14 million workers were out of work. This was also an increase of 11.7% in unemployment relative to what the figure was in November 2016. As unemployment rose, people on average spent less, slowing the economy even further.

At the same time that unemployment was rising, inflation, an old enemy to the Brazilian economy, was also quickly rising. It surpassed 10% in 2015, representing one of the highest levels since the Real Plan's success and the highest level since 2002. An increase of inflation while unemployment also increases is problematic, as products become more expensive despite a larger percentage of the population losing their source of income.

Brazil was experiencing an inflation hike while the economy contracted, a phenomenon called stagflation. Since its high in 2015, inflation has been brought down and controlled by the Temer administration. It is now estimated to be approximately 4%. This is due to cutbacks on government spending, as well as other reform proposals that would help the federal government reduce its spending and deficit.

To control inflation at the time, the Central Bank raised interest rates, known as the Selic index in Brazil, to a high of 14.25%. With the fall of inflation rates during Temer's government, however, it is also expected that interest rates will fall, and they have already shown signs of doing so. In April 2017, they were at 11.25%, with the market consensus being that these would continue their downward trend. Usually, higher interest rates make the stock market seem less appealing, as investors can put their money in federal bonds and earn a much safer and, in this case, handsome return on their capital. At the end of 2010, the Ibovespa index, Brazil's major stock market index, was at 72,600 points. In 2016, it reached 38,000, nearly as low as it had fallen in 2009 amid the global crisis. On May 26, 2017, it had rebounded to around 64,000.

Foreign direct investment also fell between 2014 and 2015, from USD 73.1 million to USD 64.6 million. The main foreign investors in the country are the United States, Spain, and Belgium. The many political scandals in recent years have caused vast uncertainty amongst investors, preventing them from investing in Brazil. Many key rating agencies downgraded Brazil's investing grade, and it is now in what is considered speculative territory. Many mutual funds and other large institutional investors cannot invest in nations or companies that have speculative ratings, and this currently serves to prevent more foreign investments from reaching the country. Foreign investments could promote greater economic growth. Investors are watching the upcoming 2018 elections to see if these will elect a pro-market or protectionist president and will likely make investment choices according to the results.

Economic indicators in the country have started to improve, but there is still much uncertainty surrounding the political ecosystem, meaning that the economy is not yet fully stable. On a positive note, Brazil's GDP grew one percent in the first quarter of 2017. This was mostly due to the agricultural sector, which is very influential in the Brazilian economy and national politics.

Questions a Resolution Paper Must Answer

Below I list some of the core questions the cabinet should consider prior to convening and throughout the weekend. Please note that this is by no means exhaustive, and good directives will address these as well as other issues presented in the background guide or problems that may arise in crisis. Additionally, it is important to note that one does not need to answer any of these explicitly, but that these points should be considered by the cabinet during our simulations.

- How should a presidential candidate appeal to the Brazilian people? Which parts of the population should each party attempt to persuade?
- Considering the limited resources in the country, how should the Cabinet of Brazil allocate funds, as resources are needed in such varied areas as education, health, and public security?
- What is the best way to ensure governability despite a multitude of parties and political opinions in Congress? How can the government form a lasting coalition?
- How does corruption negatively impact the day-to-day lives of ordinary citizens? What can be done to combat corruption—think about not only enforcing punishments, but also preventing initial corruption by making a positive change in Brazil’s culture?
- How can we ensure elections are transparent and valid?

- What is the best way to employ Brazil's vast natural resources without depleting them for future generations?
- To what extent is it possible to advance both personal interests and the common good? Is it possible for ministers to advance their own agendas while truly having a positive and lasting impact on society?

Suggestions for Further Research

Suggestions for Further Research

It is imperative that delegates conduct research beyond this guide to ensure that the substance of debate in this committee is strong. Be sure to check the last date on citations, which indicates when the source was identified in the author's research, to see if that information is still pertinent. In a dynamic country such as Brazil during an enormous political crisis, the situation can and does change quickly and drastically. For this reason, it is important not only to be weary of the age of the information contained in this guide, but also to have a process of continual research, starting with this guide and reading new articles and updates frequently. Before the beginning of the conference, be sure to look for any recent developments, as all Brazilian events leading up to the first minute of our first committee session will be pertinent.

At times, you may have difficulty finding sources in English. If this is the case, I strongly recommend using a browser which allows you to translate web pages, or using a translating service to convert sources from Portuguese to English. If, even with these tools, you are still unsure of what a source is saying, feel free to send me an email at willschrepferman@college.harvard.edu, so that I can help you understand a source.

It should be possible and relatively easy to find news articles from the New York Times, the British Broadcasting Company and other English sources about recent events in Brazil, especially regarding Dilma's impeachment. These enable you to have a broader and more holistic comprehension of what transpired and why it happened. There is an article from the New York Times titled "A Brief History of Brazil" that provides exactly what one might expect. The author goes over Brazil's history from colonial times until around the year 2000. This may be useful as a refresher to read before committee starts, on Wednesday or Thursday morning, as it is only two pages long.

The BBC also produced a short summary on Temer, which is helpful to better understand a bit of his history as a politician. It also links to other recent articles and some about impeachment, allowing you to branch

off into the parts of recent occurrences that most interest you. Finally, there is a diagram at the end of this article detailing the impeachment process that led to Dilma's removal from office. This should be helpful in cementing your understand of how she was removed from office.

One might also notice that this guide does not go in depth into the Lava Jato operation. This is mostly because the operation is ongoing, and hence writing about it in this guide would likely result in outdated content by the time of our conference. Instead, *it is imperative that you conduct research on this investigation so that you are able to understand the sheer volume of accusations and incredibly high number of politicians involved.* A good starting point is the report from 60 Minutes which gives a brief introduction to the scandal.

Finally, an article from the Financial Times outlines some of Temer's proposed reforms, in addition to considering how these may boost the Brazilian economy and explaining Temer's rationale. This resource is valuable because it provides some of the reasons why Temer is advocating for the reforms that you may ultimately have to implement as his cabinet. These suggestions are only minor additions to this guide and your overall research. You should go far beyond these sources, as Brazil's current situation is extremely complex. To fully comprehend what has happened, why it happened, and how it caused the nation to be where it is today, you cannot be afraid to dig deep into your research and find your own sources, ensuring that you get out of and put in as much as possible during committee. In addition, be sure to thoroughly research your minister's background and his ministry so that you are well prepared to take charge of crises.

Position Papers

For your position paper, please write as the Minister you will be representing. The paper should be no longer than one page single spaced and typed with 12 point Times New Roman. The margins of the paper should be 2.54 centimeters (1 inch). In addition, please include a heading with the following information in this order: your minister's name, your actual name, and your school.

In your first paragraph, outline some of your minister's resources. Does he or she have personal connections to companies, other parties, or other bodies? What is your ministry's budget? What does your ministry control? Consider how you will go about embodying this person for the weekend and what you think are the most important aspects of his or her character that you should bring to debate. In order to write a strong first paragraph, please be sure to research your character beyond the short descriptions in the update papers.

In the second paragraph, consider how you will employ these resources to resolve the core issues addressed in this guide and others you may find relevant. Are there specific ministries or companies you think would be relevant or necessary to help advance your agenda? If so, how do you plan on working with them to get things done? Are there ministers or others you think you might clash with in committee?

In addition, consider what actions you think the cabinet itself should take. With the federal government's limited budget, how should the cabinet go about executing its duties and running the country? Should certain programs or ministries be prioritized over others? What should be the cabinet's approach to dealing with crises? Should they be resolved on a case-by-case basis or should a greater framework be designed and implemented?

For your third paragraph, focus on what you think is most relevant for the upcoming elections. What must a candidate include in his or her platform and what must their political positions be in order for them to garner your support? Are there specific parties you are more likely to ally with or support in the presidential

elections? If you have a candidate in your party running, how will you support them? If your party does not have its own candidate, who would you like to support? Will you support this candidate by yourself individual or will you attempt to officially ally your party with theirs? Finally, how will you go about preparing for elections without undermining Temer's government? Or will you purposefully try to sabotage it?

Finally, be sure to have a short bibliography of the sources you used in your position paper. Feel free to cite your sources in the manner that you feel most comfortable; it is more important that I know where you got the information from than it is to follow any specific citation style. Easybib.com may be a useful resource for citation formatting. The bibliography will not count towards your one-page limit, so please be sure to include any source that contributed to helping you write your position paper.



Closing Remarks and Research Recommendations

I hope this guide provides you with an initial and brief understanding of the history and context that led Brazil to where it is today. I understand this is likely a lot to digest; but the point is not that you memorize this guide or the facts within it. Instead, this is to orient you so that you may better understand the topics of committee and what we hope you get out of it.

Please keep in mind that there is no way to fit the entirety of the long and diverse history of Brazil in this guide, even if it might seem relatively extensive. Also consider that, as with most political issues, there are various different opinions surrounding the political history of Brazil and what should occur in the future. For this reason, it is important to research further from a variety of sources. Once presented with facts and opinions from different perspectives, you will be able to better understand the situation and evaluate it yourself. We want you to learn more not only about Brazil and its history, but also about Latin America more broadly and the different political and electoral systems in the region.



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