

BRAZIL

Continent: South America

[Population](#): 241 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 76.6 years

[Governance System](#): Democratic federal republic

Capital: Brasilia

[Area](#): 8,358,140 km²

Major Languages: Portuguese

[GDP \(2021\)](#): 1,608,981 US\$ millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 87th

[Fragile States Index - Inverted](#): 109th

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): 26th

[Human Freedom Index](#): 78th

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 38th

[Good Country Index](#): 62nd

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 20th

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): 48th

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 21 (12th)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0 (NR)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): CONMEBOL

[FIFA Ranking](#): 1

World Cup Appearances: 21

Best World Cup Performance(s): Champions (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002)

Qualification: CONMEBOL 1st place

[World Cup Group](#): G

Last World Cup Appearance: 2018

BRAZIL in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Mehnaz Hossain)

Brazil is known as a one of the world's biggest diverse democracies and the fifth largest country in the world. The location of the Amazon rainforest, amount of diverse wildlife species and agricultural exports and resources have made Brazil into South America's most industrial nation.

Brazil was colonized by the Portuguese in the 1500s and Portuguese kings continued ruling Brazil until 1822 when one of the monarchs named himself the Emperor of Brazil. Over the next decade immigration from Europe ramped up and the end of the 1800s saw the monarchy being overthrown and the first federal republic being established. Brazil has a [history](#) of being politically controlled by military and civilian governments- within this history one of the most pivotal moments was when President Getulio Vargas took over Brazil via a military coup and the economy was placed under state control- thus starting a social welfare revolution. The later half of the 1900s saw Brazil slide into [economic trouble](#) as inflation ran rampant resulting in periods of hyperinflation and collapse of the Asian stock markets. [1960 to 1994](#) saw periods of inflation that peaked above a 100%.

Brazil's Amazon Rainforest continues to be threatened by climate change and deforestation- a global issue that the Brazilian government is failing to lobby through their implementation of controversial [environmental laws](#) . Where Brazil falls short within environmental policies, it makes up for in terms of implementing more social welfare policies aimed at lifting people out of poverty and increasing access to education.

In 2016, Brazil hosted the [Olympic Games](#) in Rio de Janeiro- an event that invited large protests at the expenses of hosting the World Cup despite rising living costs. The years preceding the World Cup was plagued by controversies such as major corruption scandals against [Petrobras](#)- Brazil's state oil company and public emergencies such as an outbreak of Zika virus. In 2018, after much political upheaval far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro became president. Multiple [controversies and criticisms](#) have followed his presidency. In 2020 he refused to implement public health measures that would curb the spread of COVID-19 and has threatened democratic rules through breeding mistrust in the electoral system, free speech, and judicial independence. Other [human rights abuse](#) that Brazil is accused of under Bolsonaro's rule includes a high number of police killings disproportionately affecting black Brazilians and inhumane prison conditions.

Brazil belongs to several [international organizations](#), including the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the G-20, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Brazil traditionally has been a leader in the inter-American community and is a member of the sub-regional MERCOSUL and PROSUL groups.