

GREAT DECISIONS

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8. Brazil's metamorphosis

Acronyms and abbreviations

GNP—Gross national product
PMDB—Democratic Movement Party
PSDB—Social Democratic Party
PT—Worker Party

Glossary

Biomes: Communities of plants, animals and other organisms that are classified and defined by adaptations to that environment, reflected through plant structures, leaf types, plant spacing, etc.

BRICS: Acronym for five major emerging countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. As of 2014, the BRICS make up for 40% of the world's population and 18% of the world economy.

Carajás Mine: The largest iron ore mine in the world, the mine is located in the state of Pará in the Carajás Mountains of northern Brazil.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso: The 34th president of Brazil for two presidential terms from 1995 to 2003. During his presidency, he emphasized economic reforms and increased funding for social services and education, but faced severe economic challenges during his second term.

Cerrado: A vast tropical savanna region located in Brazil, particularly in the states of both Goiás and Minas Gerais; includes forest and wooded savanna.

Christ the Redeemer: A statue of Jesus Christ in Rio de Janeiro created by French sculptor Paul Landowski and built by Brazilian engineer Heitor da Silva Costa between 1922 and 1931.

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (popularly known as

Lula): The 35th president of Brazil (2003–11) and also a founding member of the Workers' Party. He served two presidential terms before being succeeded by Dilma Rousseff. During his administration, Lula focused on boosting the economy, enacting social reforms and ending government corruption.

Federal District: One of the 27 federative units of Brazil and home to the country's capital, Brasilia. Located in the Central Plateau of the Brazilian Highlands.

Itamar Franco: A former Brazilian politician and the President of Brazil from 1992 to 1995. Franco also served as senator, mayor, ambassador and vice president. In the 1960s, he was one of the founding members of the Brazilian Democratic Movement, now known as the Party of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB).

French Guiana: An overseas region of France on the north Atlantic coast of South America, bordering Brazil to the east as well as the south.

Gross National Product (GNP): The value of all the products and services produced in one year by the labor of a country's citizens.

Paulo Maluf: A former Brazilian congressman and a presidential candidate, as well as former mayor and governor of São Paulo. Currently the Federal Deputy.

Minas Gerais: One of the 26 states of Brazil and the second most populated as well as fourth largest by area in the country.

Aécio Neves: A Brazilian economist, politician and the president of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party. He was also the 17th Governor of Minas Gerais (2003–10).

Pantanal: A region encompassing the world's largest tropical wetland area and located within the state Mato Grosso do Sul, extending to Mato Grosso.

Petrobras: A semi-public Brazilian multinational energy corporation that is located in Rio de Janeiro; is the largest company in Southern Hemisphere by market capitalization.

Rio de Janeiro: The second largest city in Brazil and sixth largest city in the Americas, as well as the world's 35th largest city by population.

Dilma Rousseff: The 36th Brazilian president and first woman to hold office; she was also previously the chief of staff of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

São Paulo: A municipality located in southeastern Brazil. It is the most populous city in both Brazil and the Americas, and is world's 12th largest city.

Jose Serra: A Brazilian politician who had previously served as a congressman, senator, Minister of Planning and Minister of Health, and mayor of São Paulo.

Social Democratic (PSDB) Party: A centrist political party in Brazil and is also the third largest party in the country's National Congress. PSDB is the main opposition party against Rousseff.

Tropical Zone: A region surrounding the Equator and consists of the Tropic of Cancer in the north and the Tropic of Capricorn in the south.

Getúlio Vargas: Brazilian dictator between 1930 and 1945 before becoming president; Vargas held the longest presidency in Brazil. His policies favored nationalism, industrialization, centralization and populism.

Workers' Party (PT): A Brazilian center-left political party launched in 1980. It is one of the largest and most important left-wing movements of Latin America.