Catalina Cadavid

Chapter 1: Brazil’s Troubled Rise

Brazil is the fifth largest country by area, yet its underestimated of its full potential. Brazil is far from perfect but it has made great combats over the years. Brazil not only holds many promises for the future but it has a direct impact to our present moment. Its Amazon rainforest reduce carbon emissions and mitigates climate change in the world, making the world more sustainable. Brazil is the third largest food exporter and is mainly recognized for its plant based fuels. It is so eco friendly that half of its cars run on ethanol derived from sugar cane.

Worldwide Brazil started to get noticed for its economic growth and accomplishments. President Lula invested US $5 billion dollars in a project called *Luz para Todos*. This project supplied 2.2 million families with electricity to their homes. In return it boosted the country’s economy because expenses were made on TVs, refrigerators and more. Brazil is also the seventh largest economy holding a GDP of US $2.4 trillion dollars. Each Brazilian makes an average $12,000 which is a third higher than China. Brazil has set the bar high, its one of the biggest exporters on oil. Petro bras the national oil company obtains its oil deep from its South Atlantic Ocean. Its also home to the third-biggest producer of jet aircrafts and home to Vale the second largest mining company.

With no enemies, strategic threats or religious problems, Brazil is a place where Brazilians can live relaxed. Brazilians are similar to Americans when it comes to their social life. In 2012, half of the Brazilians were using internet, they were also the second most users of Facebook after United States. Sports are played on a regular basis, soccer being a favorite. Brazil is the only country to have won five World Cups within forty-four years. Many sports fans fly to Brazil to enjoy the Olympics and World Cup they have to offer.

To my surprise Brazil is a country with many amazing qualities. I always assumed that it was a country that experienced poverty since it was located in South America. I find it fascinating that their cars run solely on sugar cane (ethanol), unlike the United States that run their cars on gas. One primary difference between the ethanol industries in the two countries is that while most U.S. ethanol is produced from corn, Brazilian ethanol is largely based on sugarcane (Chen & Saghaian, 2015). However, the U.S mainly uses ethanol for agriculture and feedstock. As a child I always saw my father watching soccer games on television. I remember him talking about the World Cup and that it was coming soon. Brazil was always one of the teams to participate in such events. I now understand why Brazil is mentioned so much in sports, for their athletic abilities.

Overall Brazil has succeeded my expectations, not only it has proven to surpass hardships but to make changes. The most mind blowing event is that all Brazilians were given the opportunity to have electricity. No one was left out regardless of economic status or location. It was a great decision made by President Lula to invest in its people and basic needs. It’s a country were its large but has a stability that most countries lack of. Its up to date in most technology and its also self sustainable. Brazil is a country were many opportunities exist and its a major producer of goods. There’s no doubt that my take home message about Brazil is, an unknown country with great things to offer.

*\*Work cited is located at the end*

Chapter 2: The Brazilian Way of Life

Brazil is a country full of life and movement! Football is Brazil top sport and supported by its country. It was originally introduced by Charles Miller in 1894. The Brazilian team always has pressure when there is match, losing is not an option. Brazilians are so devoted to football that workers at the Embraer agreed to work extra time over several weeks so they can watch the Brazilian match. When the matches take place the entire country is at silence watching from their homes.

Carnivals is what Brazil is known for, samba in particular. Samba originated in the nineteenth century and is still carried out today. Some trucks even load speaker systems on to them to hear the music loud and clear. Samba is carefully choreographed and well put together. Samba schools even compete with each other; most are from poverty areas. Its an event where rich, poor, white or black has nothing to do with it only your ability to dance. Since its so hot dancing under the sun that’s why minimal clothes is used. Brazilians are very relaxed about sex and nudity which plays a controversial issue with the Catholic church. In 1960, ninety-three percent were Catholic and the other was African religions.

Brazilians divide the country into five regions; North, North-east, Center-west, South-east and South. The north is composed of twenty-four million people which takes up sixty percent of the country. Its composed of six states which contain the largest rainforest in the world. The north-east is home to fifty-three million people in which the majority are poor. These people dedicate their life to farming in particular cotton and sugar. The center-west is the fastest growing area in Brazil, both in population and economically. In this area most of the production companies are located such as, soybean, cotton and cars too. The south-east contains the two largest cities, African City and Rio de Janeiro. It holds seventy-seven million people, and it’s the location were income is mostly generated. The southern region makes up seven percent of the national territory and holds twenty-six million people. The people in this region specialize in shoe making, wine production and family farming.

Its amazing how Brazil takes pride in their sports and carnivals. Samba schools are considered to be the epicenter of the Carnival culture (Swan, 2016). Every year the teachers, students and spectator look forward to these carnivals. "I think Carnival is our soul. It's kind of our soul," said Camila Soares, the President of Samba School for Kids (Swan, 2016). Not only are these Brazilians devoted to carnival but to football as well. The similarities between my hometown Colombia and Brazil are very similar when it comes to football. When these games are approaching the streets are also closed so the people can put tents and have outdoor barbecues. People also put up huge projectors in the middle of the street and the whole neighborhood gathers up to watch the football match together. The same event that happened at the Embraer, Brazil also happened at my cousin’s job. The only difference is that they didn’t have to work extra time, the owner gave everyone a break so they can all watch the match.

Brazil is home to a diverse group of people, farmers, miners, and business men. Just as much as they work hard to produce goods for their homeland they enjoy themselves too. Their style of living between the sports and the carnivals has added a way to distract themselves from their daily routines. It has also brought joy to the children in poor places to compete for the the next best Samba dancer.

*\*Work cited is located at the end*

# Works Cited

Chen, B., & Saghaian, S. (2015). The Relationship among Ethanol, Sugar and Oil Prices in Brazil: Cointegration Analysis with Structural Breaks. 1-22.

Reid, M. (2014). *Brazil: The Troubled Rise of a Global Power.* London: Yale University Press.

Swan, S. (2016, August 13). *Carnival passion found in Brazilian Samba schools*. Retrieved August 2016, from 13 WTHR: http://www.wthr.com/article/carnival-passion-found-in-brazilian-samba-schools