

Lesson Two- Read and Review

What to do?

Read

Highlight key people, places and events- Notes (study for test)

Answer questions highlighted in black (study for test)

Brazil is one of the world's leading industrial powers.

Early History

How did Brazil's early peoples live?

In 1493 Christopher Columbus returned to Spain with news of his explorations and of new lands. The Spanish worried that neighboring Portugal, a powerful seafaring rival, would try to claim these lands for itself. So they asked the pope to find a solution. The pope decided that all new lands west of a certain line should belong to Spain. Lands east of the line would belong to Portugal. The two countries agreed to this division in 1494 by signing the Treaty of Tordesillas.

Almost nothing was known of the region's geography, so neither side realized how unequal the division was. Almost all of the Americas lay west of the line, which became Spanish territory. The only exception was the eastern part of South America, which became Portuguese territory. Today, this part of South America is Brazil. That is why Brazil is the only South American country that has a Portuguese heritage.

Indigenous Populations

The first Portuguese ships stopped in Brazil in 1500. Their destination was India, so they did not stay in Brazil for long. They had peaceful encounters with some of the indigenous, or native, peoples who lived along the coast. The Portuguese commander, Pedro Cabral, claimed the land for Portugal. After just 10 days, the Portuguese left. They had no idea of the vast region and many peoples included in Cabral's claim.

The people the Portuguese met were the Tupi. They lived along the coast and in the rain forests south of the Amazon River, where they grew cassava, corn, sweet potatoes, beans, and peanuts. They hunted fish and other water animals with arrows and harpoons from large log canoes, but they did little hunting on land.

Brazil's native peoples had lived there for more than 10,000 years when the Portuguese arrived. Estimates are that the population was between 2 million and 6 million by 1500. Besides the Tupi, it included the Arawak and Carib people of the northern Amazon and coast, and the Nambicuara in the drier grasslands and highlands. These are not the names of native peoples; they were Brazil's four main language groups. Each group **comprised** many different peoples.

Daily Life

Like the Tupi, Brazil's other lowland and rain forest peoples were mainly farmers. They lived in permanent, self-governing villages and practiced slash-and-burn agriculture. This is a method of farming in forests that involves cutting down trees and burning away underbrush to create fields for growing crops. Farther south, most of the

Nambiquara of the Brazilian Highlands were nomads, people who move from place to place and have no permanent home. In the dry season, they lived as hunter-gatherers, people who get their food by hunting, fishing, and collecting seeds, roots, and other parts of trees and wild plants. In the wet season, they built temporary villages and practiced slash-and burn agriculture.

Europeans Arrive

For more than 30 years after Cabral's visit, the Portuguese did not pay much attention to Brazil. Their main focus was on their colonies and trade in Asia. Their trading ships sailed south and east around Africa on their way to Asia. Portuguese sailors established a few trading posts along Brazil's coast and collected brazilwood. The red dye **extracted** from this wood was highly valued in Europe. It was because of this trade that the Portuguese named the region Brazil.

The valuable brazilwood trade made other Europeans more interested in Brazil. French traders began collecting the wood and shipping it to France. To bring Brazil under tighter Portuguese control, Portugal's King John III established a permanent colony and government there. The first Portuguese settlers arrived in 1533.

Determining Central Ideas Why did the Portuguese colonize Brazil?

Colonial Rule

How did the Portuguese colony in Brazil develop?

Portugal's rule of Brazil lasted more than 300 years. During that time, Portuguese settlements spread all along the coast. Explorers and others traveled up rivers and deep into Brazil's interior. The expansion brought wealth to Portugal, though much of it came at great cost to Brazil's indigenous peoples.

The Portuguese Conquest

King John III gave wealthy supporters huge tracts of land in Brazil. These tracts extended west from the coast about 150 miles (241 km) inland. In return, the people who received a land grant were responsible for developing it. They founded cities and gave land to colonists to farm.

Because the colonists could not do all the work that was required, they soon began enslaving nearby native peoples as laborers. Many of them resisted and were killed. Thousands more died from exposure to European diseases to which they had no natural resistance. Others fled into Brazil's interior. These conditions and other complaints caused King John to end the land-grant system in 1549. He put Brazil under royal control and sent a governor from Portugal to rule the colony.

Spread of Christianity

The new governor brought more colonists with him. They included a number of Jesuit Catholic priests who belonged to a missionary group called the Society of Jesus. The king asked the Jesuits to go to Brazil to help the native peoples and convert them to Christianity. Those who converted were settled in special Jesuit villages and were protected from slavery.

Those Portuguese colonists who held enslaved people complained to the king about the Jesuits' work. In 1574 he ruled that native peoples who did not live in Jesuit villages could be enslaved only if they were captured in war. This ruling sent Jesuits into Brazil's interior to protect and convert peoples there. Slave hunters also moved into the interior to attack and enslave the native peoples. Cattlemen and prospectors followed, slowly spreading development inland.

Sugar and Gold

As Brazil's sugar industry expanded, cattlemen needed new land. The rise of large sugarcane plantations, mainly in the northeast, pushed ranching westward.

In the 1600s, sugar became Brazil's main export and Portugal's greatest source of wealth. Coffee and cotton plantations also developed. The discovery of gold in the eastern highlands in the 1690s further boosted the development of the interior. Towns sprang up as thousands of colonists rushed to the area. Large numbers of new colonists arrived from Europe, as well. The discovery of diamonds in the region in the 1720s added to the population boom.

Plantation agriculture and mining required large numbers of workers. This increased the need for enslaved workers. When native populations could not fill the need, the Portuguese began importing large numbers of enslaved Africans. By the 1780s, more than 150,000 enslaved Africans worked in the mining districts. This was twice the size of the Portuguese population. By 1820, some 1.1 million enslaved people accounted for nearly one-third of Brazil's total population.

Determining Central Ideas Why did King John III send Jesuits to Brazil?

Independent Brazil

How did Brazil gain independence and become a democracy?

Brazil gained independence from Portugal in an unusual way. It came gradually, fairly easily, and with little bloodshed. It was also the indirect result of the actions of the French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

Independence and Monarchy

In 1805, Britain joined by its allies Russia, Austria and Sweden, went to war with France to crush Napoleon. Instead, Napoleon defeated them and conquered much of Europe. In 1807 Napoleon invaded Portugal. As the French army closed in on Portugal's capital city of Lisbon, ruler Dom João, the royal family, and other government leaders fled to Brazil. Rio de Janeiro became the new capital of the Portuguese Empire. Brazil's status within the empire changed from a colony to a kingdom. This action gave Brazil equal status with Portugal within the empire.

After Napoleon was defeated, the Portuguese people wanted their king back. In 1821 Dom João and the rest of the government returned to Portugal. He left his son Pedro to rule Brazil. In 1822 Portugal's legislature restored Brazil's status as a colony and ordered Pedro to return. Pedro refused to give up the Brazilian throne. He declared independence and crowned himself Emperor Pedro I. Most other independent American nations became republics, but independent Brazil became a constitutional monarchy. In this form of government, a king, a queen, or an emperor acts as head of state.

Most Brazilians had supported independence from Portugal, but they soon tired of Pedro's harsh rule. In 1831 he was forced to turn over the throne to his five-year-old son.

A series of advisers ruled in the boy's name until he was old enough to rule on his own. In 1840, at age 14, he became Emperor Pedro II.

Pedro II ruled Brazil for nearly 50 years. His reign was marked by great progress. Brazil's population grew from 4 million to 14 million during his rule. He offered land to attract large numbers of Germans, Italians, and other European immigrants to Brazil. Sugar, coffee, and cotton production rose. Brazil's first railroads were built to get these and other products to the coast for export.

In 1850 Brazil stopped importing enslaved people from Africa. In the 1860s, a new movement began to emancipate, or free, the enslaved. Pedro II opposed slavery, but he thought it should be ended gradually. An 1871 law granted freedom to all children born to people in slavery. An 1885 law freed enslaved people who were over age 60. Finally, in 1888, all remaining enslaved people were freed.

The Brazilian Republic

Brazil's powerful plantation owners were angered by the loss of their enslaved workers. In 1889 they supported Brazil's army in overthrowing Pedro II. A new government was established, with a constitution based on the

Constitution of the United States. Brazil became a republic, a system in which the head of state is an elected ruler instead of a king, a queen, or an emperor. In this republic, the right to vote was limited to wealthy property owners. In 1910, for example, out of a population of 22 million, only 627,000 people could vote.

Most of the power in the early republic was held by the governors of Brazil's southeastern states. Governors were elected by their state's wealthy voters. State governors controlled the election of Brazil's president, who usually came from the highly populated, coffee-rich states of São Paulo and Minas Gerais (General Mines).

These presidents followed economic policies that benefited southeastern Brazil. Coffee became Brazil's main export. By 1902, Brazil was supplying 65 percent of the world's coffee. São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro also became the country's industrial and commercial centers. Over time, some people became unhappy with government policies that continued to favor the coffee growers and other rich Brazilians. In 1930 Getúlio Vargas overthrew the newly elected "coffee president" and seized power. He ruled for the next 15 years. Vargas's reforms made him a hero to most Brazilians. He raised wages, shortened work hours, and let workers form labor unions. Yet for much of his rule, Vargas governed as a dictator. He dissolved the legislature and banned political parties. In 1945 military leaders forced Vargas to resign.

Brazil Under Military Rule

Vargas was elected president again in 1950, but again was forced from office by the military in 1954. For over 30 years, government in Brazil alternated between dictators and elected leaders. Manufacturing thrived throughout this period. Foreign investments brought rapid growth in the steel, auto, and chemical industries.

Industrial growth was accompanied by changes and unrest in Brazilian society. As a result, the military took control of Brazil in 1964, and a series of generals became the heads of government. An elected legislature was allowed, but the army controlled the elections. People who opposed the government were arrested. Many others were frightened into silence. The military gave up power in 1985 and allowed the election of a civilian president.

Modern Brazil

Today Brazil is a democratic republic in which people elect a president and other leaders. In Brazil, voting is compulsory. This means that citizens have no choice in deciding whether or not to vote. People from ages 18 to 70 are required by law to vote.

Because Brazil has a high number of well-supported political parties, coalition governments are common. A coalition government is one in which several political parties cooperate to do the work of government. In 2003 a democratically elected president replaced another democratically elected president for the first time in more than 40 years. In 2010 voters elected Dilma Vana Rousseff as the thirty-sixth president of Brazil. She is the first woman president in the country's history.

Identifying Central Ideas Why did Brazil's monarchy come to an end?

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Reviewing Vocabulary

1. What kind of agriculture did some *indigenous* farmers practice?

Answering the Guiding Questions

2. **Analyzing** How were the Nambicuara similar to and different from the other main indigenous peoples of early Brazil?

3. **Identifying** Why did African slavery increase in Brazil before it was abolished completely in 1888?

4. **Describing** What were the main steps in Brazil's transition from a colony to a democratic country?

5. Argument Writing Take the role of a Brazilian living in 1889. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper supporting or opposing the establishment of the republic. Be sure to state the reasons for your opinion.