

Chapter 13: An Unreformed Leviathan

In June 2013, protesters swarmed the streets against the rise of fare for public transportation. This rise in costs affected over 80 percent of Brazil's population living in Class C, D and E, who spent on average three to four hours per day on crowded public transportation. It was ironic that one of Dilma's main goals while in the presidency was to improve the public service system, but did little to help during her time in office. This caused a plummet in her approval rating and opened the field to potential competitors for the presidency in the 2014 election.

At this time the country's political system was in dismay. It was described as "an exceptional case of party weakness." New parties were arising and existing parties were splitting and forming new ideologies. During the past 20 years, the government was dominated by the PT party as well as PSDB, which both proved wishy washy in their thoughts during this time. Amazingly, neither party ever held more than twenty percent in Congress at one time. This led to the misguidance of the government being described as a "system of vetoes, and the Permanent postponement of definitive solutions." This was not characteristic of a global powers government.

The main downfall of the PSDB, was that they were stuck between the old and the new. They could not let go of their old beliefs, while they strove to hold modernist thoughts as their core belief. Beyond their belief dilemma, the PSDB proved to be a good government under Sarney, and during his time in office brought a more stable

government in, settled down wild finances and launched the UPP policing program. They like many other practiced patrimonialism and patronage politics.

Brazil, much like a teenage girl, had a huge spending problem. Brazil was stuck between two worlds, taxing and spending money like a European powerhouse, yet having a crumbling infrastructure, poorly managed hospitals, and a failing education system much like the rest of Latin America. Their attempts at raising in power were failing. Not enough money was being put back into rebuilding Brazil while the taxes or public spending was closing the gap of income inequality. Brazil is a nation of failed attempts, national developments was a sham and helped only a slight minority, and it wasn't until Cardoso did they see any form of reform. Transfer payments to states were the main killer of the spending. The federal government was giving such much money to the states that it barely had enough for itself.

The Pension system hung the balance of Brazil's money problems. The lucrative pensions were draining the national accounts. Brazil spent astronomically too much on pension which saw a slight reforms in 1999 and 2003, but the people before the reforms were all grandfathered into their original pensions. Brazil did begin to spend less on pensions, but needed to spend more on the education system by expanding lower education and raising the standards of high schools.

Another huge part of Brazil's money issues was the corruption of the leaders, who enjoyed generous inside bonuses and government kickbacks. Corruption has always plagued Brazil and came in many forms, such as legal exploitation, a deep seated sense of entitlement of the leaders, and out and out skimming off the top. Not all

of the leaders were corrupt and I would be wrong in leading to the fact that they all were. Leaders would soon begin to battle this corruption. A better judiciary system needed to be installed and politicians needed to be held accountable even after resignation. Also a revamping of the congressional system needed to occur, giving more leaders to populous areas while taking away leaders from over represented one. Overall, Brazil has a long battle against them and without the backing of the people, who enjoy many government social programs, nothing will be done.

It is my belief that Brazil need to adopt a system like America's congress having both equal membership for all states, like the senate, and representation by population, like the House of Representatives. Brazil is not "too far gone," it just needs some guidance and a settled economy. Brazil has made great strides politically in the past and that trend will continue in the years to come.