

## Chapter 4: From Monarchy to Coffee Republic

As Brazil's population grew, so did its power, becoming the center of the Portuguese empire. This would lead to its national independence, but in a very unique way. Jose Bonifacio is widely considered the leader of Brazilian independence. In 1822, the emperor declared he was staying, and on 7 September 1822, he declared "independence or death, we have separated from Portugal" and proclaimed himself emperor. Brazil is the only independent country to adopt monarchy for an extended period of time. In 1824, a constitution was imposed and a 50 member senate was chosen by the emperor, and a 100 member of deputies was indirectly elected. The emperor himself chose the presidents of the provinces himself.

Valongo was the largest slave importer in Brazil. This played a huge part in the eventual abolishment of slavery. In 1845, the slave trade act was approved and allowed the royal navy to treat Brazilian slave ships as pirate ships, seizing them and trying the captain and crew aboard. Within 10 years, the last landing took place in 1850. The end of the slave trade meant the total abolishment of slavery was soon to follow. With the abolishment of slavery came many challenges, the largest being land ownership. The newly found coffee plantations were taken over by local notables and kept for themselves. Only 3 percent of royal population held land, of those 10 percent controlled 3 quarters of that land. Soon those landowners invested in railways, seeing the looming labor shortage due to the end of slavery.

Once the monarchy fell, the immigration rate skyrocketed, between 1887 and 1914, 2.7 million immigrants arrived in Brazil. This new wave of European immigrants

whitened Brazil's racial mixture, and in 1888, Brazil's Golden Law was put in place, completely abolishing slavery. With the abolishment of slavery, the borders between Brazil and Uruguay tightened, and disputes over cattle grazing land turned violent. This drawn-out war weakened the monarchy and eventually led to its doom. In 1868, Pedro found his replacement, a conservative army officer. This war would also lead to a boost in liberal republican ideas, and the coffee plantations soon adopted them. In 1889, Pedro was taken over in a bloodless coup by his own friend Deodoro Fonseca. The monarchy secured the unity of Brazil and in 1870, democracy took over. The two main aspects of the fall of the monarchy was a succession problem mainly due to his daughter princess Isabella and the ideal of a centralized monarchy was holding the nation back.

In the 1920s, marking a century of independence, Brazil created a modern art week. At this time, Brazil was trying to make a name for itself in a modern age. They embraced the modern industrial world through architecture, paint and other canvases. Modernism was itself the produce of a changing nation. Between 1872 and 1920, the population doubled. The coffee empires built lavish mansions but coffee agriculture still ruled the economy. By the 1920s industry began to grow, employing 14 percent of the labor force. Immigrants played an important role in both industry and agriculture, playing as both workers and entrepreneurs. The main downfall of Brazil was education, and in 1920, approximately 25 percent were literate. As the industry continued to grow, so did the power of unions, which eventually led to the creation of a communist party in 1922. In 1930, Julio Prestes was picked as a presidential candidate on a platform of financial

stability after the wall street crash of 1929. His presidency would soon be overthrown on Nov 3rd, 1930, as brazil saw its second coup, ran by Getulio Vargas and 3000 of his troops, thus ending the first democratic republic of brazil.

This chapter amazed me because I never believed a monarchy would ever give up its place to form a democracy. My familiarity of monarchies are slim, but I feel as if they are very strong in their beliefs and would never give up power. It blew my mind to see the selflessness of the Government to give up the reigns for the betterment of the people.