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Brazil: The Troubled Rise of a Global Power by Michael Reid

Chapter 14: Brazil's Century?

Coming from their home game World Cup defeat in 1954, Nelson Rodrigues, a journalist, charmed the term “mongrel complex” which meant that Brazilians had little faith in themselves (Reid, 282). After being elected for the 2016 Olympics, this complex was overcome, as they were finally seen as a first class country (Reid, 283). As a new country Brazil did a fine job in accomplishing tasks that came about after the dictatorship. The leaders managed to reduce inequality and create an economy. They even worked within the rules of democracy, which they also managed to put together (Reid, 283). Reid points out that Brazil was soon going to be showcased as it was holding the World Cup and the Olympic Games just two years apart.

Dilma was running for a second term. After twelve years in office the PT seemed incapable of new ideas and innovation, leaving room for new parties to step in at the election (Reid, 283). Lula asks, “will the twenty-first century be Brazil's century?” (Reid, 284.) It must start by recognizing its low economic growth, notes Reid. Looking back, expansion went quick when inequality stabilization was focused on. Brazil should continue to put big efforts into equality among its people. A plan made by an industrialist lobby in Sao Paulo in 2013 plans on doubling every Brazilian's income in the next fifteen years (Reid, 285). For this, they will need more money, which calls for reforms. The country must improve productivity in health, education, and infrastructure. An economist from the Real Plan pointed out that Brazil's moments of growth happened prior to public investment increases. Therefore, Brazil must increase savings, and spend less on other things. Will Brazilians ever get the things they demand

and deserve as they continue to become more empowered with social and equal rights (Reid, 289)?