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

Chapter 1: Brazil's Troubled Rise

Only during recent years Brazil has become recognized by world powers. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was a trade union leader, founder of the workers' party, and the president of Brazil from 2003 to 2011. Lula had to abandon his left wing policies and adopt Cardoso's (the prior president), which tamed inflation, in order to win popular vote. He finally won after four attempts and ended up doing well for the country. A prime example being his connecting of 2.2 million families to electricity. Although costing 5 billion dollars, it sparked a market for electric appliances as people had some spending money during his presidency. This consumerism market helped to pull the country out of the world crash of 2008-2009. His government was successful in pulling many people out of poverty. Through the combination of national growth with the redistribution of income, Brazil was not so poor. Revealed through this recent president's speech, Brazil is not in a totally bad place.

Brazil held the Olympics in 2016, had public recognition from Obama, and joined BRIC, a world power including Brazil, Russia, India, and China. During 2010 Brazil really started to make a noticeable comeback. Two years later it was ranked with the seventh largest world economy. Even though it was only the fifth biggest country, it was the third largest food exporter, with expectations to yield the most by 2025. The country has steady foundations as far as resources go. It also has more fresh water per person than any other country in the world. And even though Brazil is building to be a huge oil exporter, it has been described as very environmentally conscious since the country includes more than half of the Amazon Rainforest.

To be environmentally conscious is a great way to build a country, as it will hopefully build foundations with sustainability, making it self-reliant.

After pointing out many of Brazil's come ups, Reid shifts in revealing many of its downfalls. There is always an expectation for disappointment within Brazilian psyche. History reveals that promising moments almost always fell to corruption, inflation, and many other issues. Although Brazil is currently on a path of growth, there is still much to accomplish. Its infrastructure needs work and its class differences are huge. Also, corruption in law enforcement is very prevalent, education systems need great work, many manufacturers are not competitive, and the tax system is a problem for the economy. Dilma Rousseff was elected as the new president in 2010. With an immense effort to maintain growth, the economy became stagnant in 2011. In 2013 many passionate protests broke out, raging about corrupt politics and public services. Although disappointment seems imminent, Reid believes that Brazil has tougher socioeconomic and political foundations than has had in the past.